NATIONAL QUALITY FORUM

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HEALTH AND WELL BEING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

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TUESDAY April 29, 2014

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The Steering Committee met at the National Quality Forum, 9th Floor Conference Room, 1030 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., at 8:30 a.m., Thomas McInerney and Sarah Sampsel, Co-Chairs, presiding.

**PRESENT:** 

THOMAS MCINERNEY, MD, Co-Chair SARAH SAMPSEL, MD, Co-Chair CHISARA ASOMUGHA, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services JOHN AUERBACH, Northeastern University MICHAEL BAER, AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies RON BIALEK, Public Health Foundation JUAN EMILIO CARILLO, Weill Cornell Medical College, NYP JANE CHIANG, American Diabetes Association ERIC FRANCE, Kaiser Permanente RENEE FRAZIER, Healthy Memphis Common Table RON INGE, Delta Dental of WA DAVID KROL, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation MARGARET LUCK, Mary's Center for Maternal & Child Care PATRICIA MCKANE, Michigan Department of Community Health AMY MINNICH, Geisinger Health System JACQUELINE MOLINE, North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System

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MARCEL SALIVE, National Institute on Aging
KATIE SELLERS, Association of State and
      Territorial Health Officials
JASON SPANGLER, Amgen, Inc.
MIKE STOTO, Georgetown University
ROBERT VALDEZ, Robert Wood Johnson
      Foundation Center for Health Policy
ARJUN VENKATESH, Yale University School of
     Medicine
NQF STAFF:
HELEN BURSTIN, Senior Vice President,
      Performance Measurement
ANN HAMMERSMITH, JD, General Counsel
ADEELA KHAN, Project Manager, Performance
      Measurement
ALLEN LEAVENS, MD, Senior Director
ELISA MUNTHALI, Managing Director
KAITLYNN ROBINSON-ECTOR
ALSO PRESENT:
KRISHNA ARAVAMUDHAN, Dental Quality Alliance
JAMES CRALL, Dental Quality Alliance
JILL HERNDON, Dental Quality Alliance
ROBYN NISHIMI, Healthcare Quality Consultant
PAMELA OWENS, AHRQ
PATRICK ROMANO, UC Davis, AHRQ*
* present by teleconference
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1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	(8:33 a.m.)
3	MS. MUNTHALI: Hello everyone and
4	good morning. My name is Elisa Munthali. I'm
5	the Managing Director for the Performance
6	Measurement Department at NQF. Welcome to the
7	Standing Committee Meeting for Health and Well
8	Being.
9	Before I turn the meeting over to
10	Ann Hammersmith, who is our general counsel
11	who will lead us, lead the Committee through
12	introductions and the disclosure of interest
13	process, there are a couple of housekeeping
14	items that I wanted to bring to everyone's
15	attention.
16	We just wanted to remind everyone
17	that this meeting is open to the public. It
18	is being recorded and transcribed so we ask
19	that if you'd like to make a comment please
20	remember to turn on your microphones and speak
21	into the mike.
22	There are restrooms just beyond

1	the elevators for all of those who are here in
2	the conference center and they're to the
3	right. There will be several opportunities
4	for breaks throughout the next two days,
5	including lunch.
6	And there will be opportunities
7	for members of the public to make comment on
8	the Committee's deliberations as well. And if
9	you are trying to access Wi-Fi the user name
10	is "guest," all lowercase, and the password is
11	"NQF," uppercase, "guest."
11 12	"NQF," uppercase, "guest." And we ask for your full
12	And we ask for your full
12 13	And we ask for your full attention. We ask that you put your phones on
12 13 14	And we ask for your full attention. We ask that you put your phones on mute throughout the deliberations of the
12 13 14 15	And we ask for your full attention. We ask that you put your phones on mute throughout the deliberations of the meeting and if you'd like to make a phone call
12 13 14 15 16	And we ask for your full attention. We ask that you put your phones on mute throughout the deliberations of the meeting and if you'd like to make a phone call or answer a call you may do so by stepping
12 13 14 15 16 17	And we ask for your full attention. We ask that you put your phones on mute throughout the deliberations of the meeting and if you'd like to make a phone call or answer a call you may do so by stepping out.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	And we ask for your full attention. We ask that you put your phones on mute throughout the deliberations of the meeting and if you'd like to make a phone call or answer a call you may do so by stepping out. I'd also like to also introduce my
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	And we ask for your full attention. We ask that you put your phones on mute throughout the deliberations of the meeting and if you'd like to make a phone call or answer a call you may do so by stepping out. I'd also like to also introduce my colleagues who are working on the project,
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	And we ask for your full attention. We ask that you put your phones on mute throughout the deliberations of the meeting and if you'd like to make a phone call or answer a call you may do so by stepping out. I'd also like to also introduce my colleagues who are working on the project, Adeela Kahn, who is the Project Manager,

1	another Project Manager who is providing
2	analytics for this project, and Robyn Nishimi
3	who is our Project Consultant.
4	And with that I'll turn it over to
5	Ann Hammersmith.
6	MS. HAMMERSMITH: Thank you,
7	Elisa. As Elisa said we're going to combine
8	introductions and disclosures. If you recall
9	probably several months ago you received a
10	rather long form from us in which we asked you
11	about your professional activities.
12	So what we'd like to do this
13	morning is not have you recite your resume,
14	not have you recite every single thing you
15	might have put on the form, but we are looking
16	for you to disclose things that are relevant
17	to the work of this Committee, relevant to the
18	work of this Committee only.
19	We are especially interested in
20	your disclosure of grant activity, research,
21	
	or consulting. I do want to stress that NQF's
22	or consulting. I do want to stress that NQF's conflict of interest regime is a bit different

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1	from others, we don't look solely at financial
2	conflicts of interest.
3	You may have something that you
4	did as a volunteer, you may have sat on a
5	committee with Professional Society or
6	something like that where you were not paid,
7	if that is relevant to the work today we would
8	expect you to disclose that.
9	And, last but not least, I want to
10	remind you that you are sitting as an
11	individual on this Committee, you are here
12	because you're an expert, you're not
13	representing your employer, and you are not
14	representing anyone who may have nominated you
15	to serve on the Committee.
16	So with that let's go around the
17	table, tell us who you're with and if you have
18	anything you would like to disclose.
19	MR. MCINERNEY: Hi. Tom
20	McInerney, primary care pediatrician from
21	Rochester, New York and immediate past
22	president of American Academy of Pediatrics

1	and I have nothing to disclose.
2	MS. SAMPSEL: Good morning, I'm
3	Sarah Sampsel. I'm a Senior Research
4	Associate with Impact International and I will
5	just disclose I am working on a research
6	project for CMS for end stage renal disease,
7	so if some of these measures are under
8	consideration for that project.
9	And then I worked at NCQA for
10	approximately six years, however that COI has
11	expired and I did not work on any of the
12	measures that are coming through here today.
13	MS. KHAN: Sorry to interrupt. I
14	just want to add that we're actually going to
15	be passing out little slips of paper that have
16	a two or 3-year term listed on them and so
17	we're just going to have you pick from the cup
18	and if you could just announce the number that
19	you get so we know to mark whether you're here
20	for a two or a 3-year term. So, did you get,
21	Sarah?
22	MS. SAMPSEL: Yes.

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1	MS. KHAN: Okay, great.
2	MR. MCINERNEY: I drew a 2-year
3	term.
4	MS. SAMPSEL: Mine is two as well.
5	MR. BAER: Next? My name is Mike
6	Baer. I am a family doctor from AmeriHealth
7	Caritas Pennsylvania, a managed care
8	organization in Pennsylvania. I have no
9	disclosures, and two years.
10	MR. KROL: Hi, everybody, I'm
11	David Krol. I'm a pediatrician from
12	Princeton, New Jersey. I work for the Robert
13	Wood Johnson Foundation and I have nothing to
14	disclose.
15	MS. MINNICH: Good morning. My
16	name is Amy Minnich. I am from Geisinger
17	Health System, currently work in Health
18	Services as Director for Case Management and
19	I have nothing to disclose.
20	MR. KROL: And I'm a 2-year term.
21	MS. MINNICH: I'm the first lucky
22	number three.

1	MS. FRASIER: Oh, okay. Maybe you
2	took the three, good. That's what they say in
3	cards. In the casino you got my card. Good,
4	thank you.
5	I'm Renee Frasier, CEO of Healthy
6	Memphis Common Table. I think the only thing
7	we should disclose is that we do public
8	reporting and we are a grantee of Robert Wood
9	Johnson's aligning forces for quality
10	initiative and as part of that we do look at
11	these measures and we use NQF as our
12	guideline.
13	But I did want to disclose that
14	and I think that would appropriate for me to
15	disclose. And also serving on another NQF
16	Committee, Population Health, so that would be
17	appropriate I believe.
18	Oh, I got your card, too. Three
19	years, now what does that mean? I'll have to
20	find out.
21	(Laughter)
22	MS. LUCK: I'm Margaret Luck. I'm

1	Director of Quality and Outcomes at Mary's
2	Center, a federally qualified health center
3	with sites here in the District of Columbia
4	and in Maryland, and I have no disclosures.
5	I'll go down to the bottom. Two.
6	MR. SALIVE: Hi, I'm Marcel
7	Salive. I'm a Medical Officer at the National
8	Institute on Aging, part of NIH here in
9	Bethesda, no disclosures.
10	MR. FRANCE: Good morning, my name
11	is Eric France. I'm a pediatrician and public
12	health physician for Kaiser Permanente
13	Colorado and I am two years and have nothing
14	to disclose.
15	MR. SALIVE: And I picked the 3-
16	year number.
17	MALE PARTICIPANT: Sorry about
18	that.
19	(Laughter)
20	MS. ASOMUGHA: Good morning, my
21	name is Chisara Asomugha. I'm a pediatrician,
22	I'm also the Senior Technical Advisor for the

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1	Centers for Clinical Standards and Quality at
2	CMS. Two years.
3	MR. SPANGLER: Good morning. I'm
4	Jason Spangler, I'm a preventative medicine
5	physician. I currently am the Executive
6	Director of Medical Policy at Amgen, the
7	biotech company, where I'm in charge of our
8	quality strategy and quality activities.
9	So my disclosure would be related
10	to any products that Amgen has, but there are
11	none that are relevant to this Committee or
12	the measures that we're looking at, and if
13	there happen to be some I'll disclose that at
14	that time.
15	The only other thing I'd mention
16	is I am also on another NQF panel. I'm on the
17	Cardiovascular Steering Committee as well.
18	MS. CHIANG: Good morning. My
19	name is Jane Chiang and I am the Senior Vice
20	President at the American Diabetes
21	Association. I'm a pediatric endocrinologist.
22	My disclosures, so I oversee medicine there

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1	including the Clinical Practice Guidelines.
2	I am a liaison to the Clinical
3	Recognition Program at NCQA and I am also the
4	liaison to various collaborative
5	organizations.
6	MR. SPANGLER: Also, excuse me,
7	sorry. I was three years.
8	MS. CHIANG: I'm also three.
9	MR. AUERBACH: Good morning. I'm
10	John Auerback and I'm currently a professor at
11	Northeastern University and also oversee an
12	institute there called the Institute on Urban
13	Health Research and Practice, and I'm formerly
14	the State Health Commissioner for
15	Massachusetts and before that, the City of
16	Boston's Health Commissioner.
17	I have previously worked in those
18	capacities looking at population-based
19	measures that look more broadly at community
20	settings, non-clinical settings, and
21	population-based measures and I'm still
22	involved in doing some of that work, but I

1	don't have a specific disclosure to make at
2	this time. A 3-year term.
3	MS. SELLERS: Good morning. My
4	name is Katie Sellers. I am the Chief Science
5	and Strategy Officer at the Association of
6	State and Territorial Health Officials.
7	I do not have anything to disclose
8	and I will be serving a 2-year term.
9	MS. MCKANE: Hi, I'm Patricia
10	McKane and I'm a Senior MCH epidemiologist at
11	the Michigan Department of Community Health
12	and I, as part of that work with MDCH and also
13	with the Association of Maternal Child Health
14	I do look at population indicators and I've
15	worked on life course indicators but nothing
16	specific that's what these indicators are
17	going to look at and I also got a 2-year term.
18	MR. INGE: Good morning. My name
19	is Ron Inge and I am a general dentist and I
20	noticed that I'm representing the forgotten
21	part of the body and also my name is also
22	missing off the list of the standing

committee. 1 I am a Chief Dental Officer for 2 Delta Dental of Washington and Executive 3 Director of the Institute for Oral Health. 4 Т 5 have no disclosures and 3-year term. MS. MOLINE: Good morning, I'm 6 7 Jacki Moline. I'm the Chair of Population I'm an internist and occupational 8 Health. 9 medicine specialist. 10 I receive grant funding to run 11 large clinical programs that have nothing to 12 do with the measures that we're discussing 13 today and I have a 3-year term. 14 MR. BIALEK: Good morning. I'm 15 Ron Bialek, President of the Public Health Foundation and nothing specific to disclose 16 17 other than also working on population health 18 measures outside of the clinic settings. 19 And my thing says 3-hour term, so 20 I don't what that --21 (Laughter) 22 MR. BIALEK: No, it's a -- Okay,

1	okay. Yes, right, right. No, a 3-year term,
2	thank you.
3	MR. VENKATESH: My name is Argun
4	Venkatesh and I'm an emergency physician at
5	Yale University and I engaged in measure
6	development activities for the Yale Center for
7	Outcomes Research as well as the American
8	College of Emergency Physicians, none of which
9	are measures being considered here.
10	I do have to recuse myself from
11	measures 0272 and 0274 as I was part of the
12	technical expert panels that informed their
13	development. Team three.
14	MR. VALDEZ: Good morning, I'm
15	Robert Valdez. I'm a Health Services
16	Researcher. I'm currently a professor at the
17	University of New Mexico.
18	And as far as disclosures, I am on
19	the National Advisory Board of the Prevention
20	Institute and they're engaged in a variety of
21	projects doing population health measures,
22	developments, none of which are part of our

1	discussions today, and I'm on group two.
2	MR. CARILLO: Good morning, Emilio
3	Carillo. I am Vice President for Community
4	and Population Health at New York Presbyterian
5	Hospital and associate professor in medicine
6	and public health at Weill Cornell Medical
7	School.
8	I have no other work on measures,
9	relating or otherwise. I do participate and
10	take lead in two CMS and New York State
11	healthcare delivery release sign projects,
12	which do use some of the measures that we look
13	at.
14	I also serve on the care
15	coordination NQF expert panel and I drew a 3-
16	year term and I have nothing to disclose
17	otherwise.
18	MS. HAMMERSMITH: Okay, thank you
19	for those disclosures. One thought that I
20	want to leave you with is that you're a very
21	important part of an effective conflict of
22	interest regime.

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1	If you think that you have a
2	conflict at any time please do speak up. If
3	you think that a fellow committee member has
4	a conflict or if you think that someone is
5	behaving in a biased manner, please don't sit
6	in silence, we want you to tell us.
7	You are always welcome to bring it
8	up humbly in a meeting, you can go to your
9	Chair who will then consult with NQF staff, or
10	you can go directly to NQF staff.
11	So in that spirit, based on the
12	disclosures this morning, do you have anything
13	that you want to discuss with each other or
14	any questions? Okay, thank you.
15	MS. MUNTHALI: Thank you, Ann.
16	There is one more staff introduction that we'd
17	like to make. Helen?
18	MS. BURSTIN: Good morning,
19	everybody, sorry to be a couple minutes late.
20	Helen Burstin, I'm the Senior VP here
21	overseeing our work in performance
22	measurement.

1	Lots of familiar faces, I don't
2	know why some of you were sad to get three
3	years, that's a wonderful thing. The logic of
4	the standing committees is, and for some of
5	you who've been in our committees know, it's
6	such a steep learning curve that in some ways
7	you get comfortable evaluating the measures
8	and more than anything else you get
9	comfortable with each other.
10	You have a good sense of who knows
11	which area, you're very comfortable relying on
12	each other's expertise. So even if you got
13	two years the wonderful news is we would love
14	to have you reapply for a second term and the
15	idea of doing two and 3-year years is just
16	that the committee doesn't turn over at once
17	since we're just starting this.
18	And we're really excited to
19	actually have this group, focus on this topic,
20	it is, you know, one of the pillars of the
21	National Quality Strategy, the National
22	Prevention Strategy, and there's just so much

1	more work I think we need to do in this area.
2	You're going to have a lot of very
3	interesting sort of methodologic questions,
4	you're going to hopefully help us explore this
5	whole issue of levels of analysis, you know,
6	this question of are there certain measures
7	that are better at a population level but
8	maybe not work as well at a clinician level?
9	Are there certain measures that
10	logically cascade to let us really be able to
11	see, you know, the different effects of
12	clinician versus population versus community,
13	so all of those issues are front and center.
14	This is such an important area and
15	we recognize a lot of these issues are going
16	to probably, a lot of these measures will
17	generate a lot of discussion and that's okay.
18	You're first measure will take an
19	hour to review and that's okay because it
20	happens all the time and I think we've finally
21	built it into our timelines so you won't fall
22	too far behind.

1	But you have great, experienced
2	Chairs who have both been with us before,
3	Sarah, on our last population health project,
4	and then Dr. McInerney chairing our prior
5	child health project.
6	So I think you're in great hands.
7	Thank you for all your efforts and we'll be
8	here in and out over the next couple of days,
9	and a fabulous staff as well who will take
10	great care of you. Thanks.
11	MS. KHAN: Good morning everyone.
12	I just wanted to go over some ground rules and
13	the rules of our Standing Committee. So
14	you've all been selected to serve either a two
15	or 3-year term.
16	You'll be working with NQF staff
17	to achieve the goals of this project, which is
18	to review all of our measures and evaluate
19	them against the NQF criteria.
20	We'll be going over the criteria
21	briefly before we start evaluating, but
22	essentially you'll be making recommendations

1	to the NQF membership for endorsement, you'll
2	be responding to comments submitted during the
3	review period, and also respond to any
4	directions from the CSAC, which is our
5	Consensus Standards Approval Committee.
6	You'll also be in charge of
7	overseeing the Health and Well Being Portfolio
8	of Measures, which we'll also be going over in
9	a little bit more detail later on in the
10	presentation.
11	Just to go over some meeting
12	expectations, NQF is continuing to improve our
13	committee meetings based on input from a
14	variety of stakeholders and we've made a few
15	changes to our meeting process since the last
16	time maybe some of you have been here.
17	We'd like to recognize that we're
18	fortunate to have the measure developers
19	present and we'll be asking them to briefly
20	introduce their measure as they come up for
21	discussion.
22	The selected workgroup

1	representatives will then begin the discussion
2	of the measures in relation to the measure
3	evaluation criteria. We've also provided a
4	designated place for the developers, they'll
5	be right up here in the front.
6	At the main table during
7	introduction and discussion of their measures
8	by sitting at the table they'll be more easily
9	able to respond to questions from the
10	committee and correct any issues about their
11	measures during their discussion.
12	As in the case with the committee
13	members, developers are asked to please put up
14	your card when you would like to respond to a
15	question or correct any statements about the
16	measure.
17	During the measure evaluation
18	committee members can often offer suggestions
19	for improvement of the measures, but these
20	suggestions can only be considered for future
21	improvements.
22	The committee is expected to

1	evaluation and make recommendations on the
2	measures per the submitted specifications and
3	testing.
4	This multi-stakeholder group
5	brings varied perspectives, values, and
6	priorities to the discussion and respect for
7	differences of opinion and collegial
8	interactions among the committee members and
9	measure developers is expected.
10	The workgroup and the full
11	committee meeting agendas are typically quite
12	full and all of the committee members, co-
13	chairs, developers, staff, are responsible for
14	ensuring that the work of the meeting is
15	completed during the time allotted.
16	Just some additional ground rules,
17	the committee members should be prepared,
18	having reviewed the measures beforehand.
19	Again, base the evaluation and recommendations
20	on the measure evaluation criteria and
21	guidance, remain engaged in the discussion
22	without distractions, attend the meeting at

1	all times except during the breaks, keep
2	comments concise and focused, avoid dominating
3	a discussion and allow other to contribute,
4	and indicate agreement without repeating
5	what's already been said.
6	So these are the eight steps of
7	our consensus development process, the first
8	is the call for nominations followed by our
9	call for candidate standards, which is when
10	our developers provide their measures to us.
11	Currently we're in the standards
12	review, the committee review of the submitted
13	and maintenance measures recommended for
14	endorsement.
15	After this meeting we'll be
16	drafting our report and then the report will
17	be going to public and member comment. We'll
18	have a call to reconcile all the comments that
19	we receive and then the measures will go to
20	our membership for voting.
21	After they've gone through voting
22	they'll be sent to our Consensus Standards

1	Approval Committee followed by our Board of
2	Directors and then if there are any appeals
3	they'll be received after the measures are
4	approved by the Board.
5	This is just a high level overview
6	of our NQF measure criteria. The first is
7	important to measure and report, that's a must
8	pass criteria. The measure won't be able to
9	move forward unless it passes this criteria.
10	The second is scientific
11	acceptability of the measure properties. This
12	is also a must pass criteria and this is where
13	we're looking at the testing, so the
14	reliability of validity testing of the
15	measures.
16	Then we'll be assessing
17	feasibility and use and usability. And,
18	finally, we'll be voting on the overall
19	endorsement of the measure and we'll be
20	looking at harmonization and selection of best
21	in class once the measures have been endorsed
22	by the committee.

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1	And so I'll turn it over Elisa now
2	to, she's going to be doing a quick portfolio
3	review of the measures in our portfolio.
4	MS. MUNTHALI: Thank you, Adeela.
5	As Adella and Helen both mentioned the
6	committee, the members of the committee will
7	be serving multiple terms, we hope consecutive
8	terms.
9	And we are hoping that that will
10	give you more insight in the measurement
11	frameworks that make up the measures in the
12	Health and Well Being Portfolio at NQF, but
13	that you'll be also more aware of the
14	portfolio and the measures and how important
15	they are within the context of the NQF
16	portfolio.
17	We also hope that it will enable
18	you to better address those issues around
19	standardization and achieving parsimony within
20	the NQF portfolio and you'll be able to better
21	address and identify the measurement gap areas
22	in Health and Well Being.

1	We are hoping that you will also
2	become more familiar with the Health and Well
3	Being and population health work that is
4	taking place at NQF.
5	Our colleague Allen Leavens will
6	be talking about two very important projects
7	after I'm done speaking around population
8	health and for that reason we're trying to
9	make sure that the work that's happening
10	across all of the projects is informative and
11	not duplicative.
12	We're also hoping that you'll be
13	able to better receive input from external
14	stakeholders and be able to provide feedback
15	on how the portfolio should evolve.
16	MS. BURSTIN: Could I just add one
17	quick one? And one more task I'd like to put
18	on your plate which is often times there are
19	great measures that are in use out there in
20	the real world that don't come our way.
21	So we've sort of affectionately
22	
	referred to this as the need to prospect for

1	measures. So I think part of what we'd also
2	love to have you do for us over the years is
3	as you come upon a measure that may be in use
4	in a community, in a clinic in a given
5	locality, please let us know and we'd be
6	delighted to work with them, partner with them
7	with a measure developer.
8	We've been working on this concept
9	of an incubator. You're able to take those
10	ideas from the field, get them in, get them
11	standardized and tested. So please consider
12	that one of your roles as well.
13	MS. MUNTHALI: And as Helen also
14	mentioned earlier the work that we're doing at
15	NQF, particularly around Health and Well Being
16	is it has really been informed by the National
17	Quality Strategies three part aim of better
18	care, making sure that populations are
19	healthy, and making sure that that care that
20	they receive is affordable.
21	Specifically we're focusing beyond
22	the clinical care delivery system, but looking

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1	at, you know, the provision of the clinical
2	preventative services across the life span,
3	across settings, but also looking at healthy
4	lifestyle behaviors and those social and
5	economic and environmental determinants of
6	health.
7	The work that we're doing here at
8	NQF around Health and Well Being was also
9	informed by our first project, our first
10	population measures project, and in that
11	because it was the first around we did
12	significant foundational work which included
13	a background paper that was developed by Don
14	Jacobson at the Public Health Institute and
15	Steve Teutsch at the L.A. County Department of
16	Public Health.
17	A big piece of their paper was an
18	environmental scan of existing population and
19	community level measures, but there was also
20	guidance on how we should be measuring and
21	assessing population health, the determinants
22	of health, and improvement activities.

1	Steve and Don also wanted to
2	emphasize the importance of making sure that
3	the clinical care delivery system and public
4	health system were aligned in health
5	improvement.
6	And also that NQF really adopt an
7	integrated measurement, framework to include
8	total population, the determinants of health,
9	and improvement activities. And so that work
10	led to a 2-phase project.
11	In the first phase many around the
12	table, Ron and Sarah, were a part of that
13	work. We reviewed and endorsed 19 clinical
14	preventative services in immunization
15	measures.
16	And as you remember from the
17	preceding slide that is a tenet of the NQS and
18	the committee had some, you know, very strong
19	recommendations for developers.
20	There were a number of
21	immunization measures that you'll see tomorrow
22	when we talk about gaps and we talk about

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1	harmonization that came forward.
2	And they expressed a desire for
3	developers to work together on a universal
4	measure that integrates multiple populations.
5	There were also concerns that some of the
6	measures that came forward were not
7	standardized with current standards from the
8	Advisory Committee on immunization practices.
9	And then the second phase we were
10	focused on the other two parts of the NQS, the
11	part that focuses on healthy lifestyle
12	behaviors and the social determinate, so those
13	broader population health measures.
14	Despite targeted outreach we only
15	received nine measures, five of which were
16	endorsed. The committee had a number of
17	recommendations and one was to really bring
18	into NQF those measures that address the
19	social, the upstream determinates of health
20	around social, economic, and environment
21	factors, measures that assess the physical
22	environment including air pollution, built

1	environments, and clean water.
2	They also wanted to see
3	population-based blood pressure measures so
4	that those can be aligned with the Million
5	Hearts Campaign and they wanted more
6	comprehensive population health measures,
7	those that looked beyond process but were
8	composites that took into account outcomes and
9	access and structure and population
10	experience.
11	So in the NQF portfolio, in the
12	entire portfolio of Is it about 700
13	measures?
14	FEMALE PARTICIPANT: Six twenty-
15	four.
16	MS. MUNTHALI: Six twenty-four.
17	There are about 70 endorsed measures in Health
18	and Well Being. They cut across settings and
19	life span and they include the following
20	domains and sub-topics, health related
21	behaviors and practices to promote healthy
22	living, community level indicators of health

1	and disease and community interventions.
2	We have a number of measures that
3	assess primary prevention and/or screening and
4	some measures that address modifiable social
5	economic and environmental determinates of
6	health.
7	And what I've done here is just to
8	give you a sample of some of those measures,
9	I've included those major domains as column
10	headings and the number across the Health and
11	Well Being Portfolio are in parentheses.
12	As you can see we have quite a few
13	measures as I mentioned before in primary
14	prevention and screening, about 25, and we
15	have 12 in the community level indicators of
16	health and disease category.
17	Not as many social determinate
18	measures and even fewer health related
19	behavior measures. At the bottom, I think
20	it's the third column, the last two rows,
21	you'll see two measures.
22	One of them is an osteoporosis

1	screening measure that has been assigned to
2	the Endocrine Project and another HIV and AIDS
3	screening measure that's assigned to our
4	Infectious Disease Project.
5	I bring these here to you just to
6	emphasize the importance of us looking beyond
7	just those measures that have been assigned to
8	his particular committee.
9	It's important for us as staff to
10	make sure that we are aligning our work across
11	and that you're informed about all of the
12	other work that is related to Health and Well
13	Being, health related behaviors, primary
14	prevention, those modifiable social, economic,
15	environmental determinates of health, and the
16	community level indicators of Health and Well
17	Being that are outside of this project.
18	And so with regards to our current
19	measures under review there are 15 measures
20	across levels of analysis including healthcare
21	and providers and communities and the
22	committee will be reviewing these measures,
1	some have been previously endorsed.
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2	Six are newly submitted oral
3	health measures and we've included a listing
4	of the measures here. These are the eight
5	measures from AHRQ, they address the community
6	level indicators of health and disease and the
7	six oral health measures that I mentioned
8	before, and one primary prevention screening
9	measure on breast cancer screening.
10	And so I don't know if you have
11	any questions on the portfolio or on the
12	evaluation process or on the project, the
13	scope and the goals?
14	MR. AUERBACH: This is John
15	Auerbach. I'd start out by saying I apologize
16	if this is something you already said or I
17	should've known already from reading the
18	material.
19	But in terms of the initial
20	measures that we're looking at today and
21	tomorrow those don't seem to include the ones
22	that were the modifiable, environmental, and

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1	social determinant measures.
2	Is that because they're not
3	assigned to this committee or because we'll be
4	addressing those but at a later time?
5	MS. MUNTHALI: That is a good
6	question. You actually will be addressing
7	those at a later time. They're not due for a
8	maintenance review and so once a measure is
9	endorsed there's a 3-year period in which it's
10	under maintenance.
11	Developers can submit annual
12	updates to those measures. They're not
13	material changes, perhaps updates to coding.
14	After three years they go through the same
15	process, reviewing it against the importance
16	to measure and report, scientific
17	acceptability of the measure properties,
18	feasibility, use and usability.
19	So those will probably, we do have
20	some that were due for a review in this
21	project but we had to push them out to the
22	next round of Health and Well Being projects,

1	so you'll see more of those, about ten of
2	those, and we're hoping to put out a call for
3	additional measures, too, and hopefully more
4	of those will come in.
5	MR. FRANCE: This is Eric France.
6	Could you remind the expected meeting
7	schedules over the subsequent years? We've
8	had a certain experience to date and I'm
9	curious what it's going to look like in the
10	next year and the next year.
11	MS. MUNTHALI: In terms of the in-
12	person meetings?
13	MR. FRANCE: Both phone calls and
14	in-person meetings.
15	MS. MUNTHALI: Okay. So I'll have
16	Adeela talk about the schedule. She will talk
17	about it at the end of the meeting, but I'll
18	have her go over it now.
19	But in terms of the next in-person
20	meeting that will be contingent on when we
21	receive funding for the next project and so we
22	are hoping, we are very hopeful that we'll

1	receive funding for the next project sometime
2	early next year.
3	And so that in-person meeting will
4	probably happen by mid-year 2015 I would say.
5	And so I'll turn it over to Adeela to talk
6	about this particular project.
7	MS. KHAN: Sure. So as I
8	mentioned before we had our measure submission
9	deadline in February. We had our workgroup
10	calls in March and April and our in-person
11	meeting is today, April 29th and 30th.
12	After this, our report is going to
13	be posted for public and member comment June
14	4th to July 3rd and we'll have a call with the
15	committee August 6th to discuss the comments
16	that we received.
16 17	that we received. After that it'll go to a member
17	After that it'll go to a member
17 18	After that it'll go to a member vote in August as well and then to CSAC in
17 18 19	After that it'll go to a member vote in August as well and then to CSAC in September and the Board in September as well.

1	heavier lift, it's usually the co-chairs
2	that'll be attending the CSAC meeting and the
3	Board meeting to talk about any issues that
4	come up during the in-person meeting.
5	And then if we receive an appeal
6	we would convene the committee again to
7	discuss the contents of the appeal and we
8	would process that. I don't know if you have
9	anything to add?
10	MS. MUNTHALI: No, not to add to
11	that, but I did want to get back to that point
12	of the modifiable determinants of health.
13	That has been a constant struggle for us. It
14	was for our first population health project
15	and for those who were on the project you can
16	definitely chime in.
17	That's an area that we're hoping
18	to address. Not just through this project,
19	but also through the project that Allen
20	Leavens will talk about. This is a community
21	action guide, so really trying to put out a
22	practical guide that communities can use to

1	improve population health.
2	But what it also does is to put
3	forward a core set of measures and resources
4	that communities can use and I think this goes
5	back to the point that Helen brought up.
6	If you hear of any measures that
7	have been used at the community level, knowing
8	that this is, you know, NQF hasn't been in
9	this space for long and many people may not
10	know about our endorsement process. We'd love
11	to hear about it.
12	There were several recommendations
12 13	There were several recommendations that our past committee had in our final
13	that our past committee had in our final
13 14	that our past committee had in our final report and I'll circulate that and how we can
13 14 15	that our past committee had in our final report and I'll circulate that and how we can get more people to the table and through our
13 14 15 16	that our past committee had in our final report and I'll circulate that and how we can get more people to the table and through our endorsement process.
13 14 15 16 17	that our past committee had in our final report and I'll circulate that and how we can get more people to the table and through our endorsement process. MR. BIALEK: There was one
13 14 15 16 17 18	that our past committee had in our final report and I'll circulate that and how we can get more people to the table and through our endorsement process. MR. BIALEK: There was one particular struggle I recall with the
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	that our past committee had in our final report and I'll circulate that and how we can get more people to the table and through our endorsement process. MR. BIALEK: There was one particular struggle I recall with the population health measures before which came
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	that our past committee had in our final report and I'll circulate that and how we can get more people to the table and through our endorsement process. MR. BIALEK: There was one particular struggle I recall with the population health measures before which came down to some of the policy measures like the

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1	And I'm wondering if NQF has
2	grappled with that any longer if policy types
3	of measures are now up for consideration or if
4	they're still pretty much off the table?
5	MS. BURSTIN: That's a great
6	question, Ron, I mean I don't think anything's
7	truly off the table, it all goes back to the
8	criteria. If it's evidence-based, if it's
9	reliable and valid I think it's fair game.
10	I think one of the challenges last
11	time in particular was this very interesting
12	issue and many of you have lived in this sort
13	of population health space specifically of
14	what's the locus of accountability, I think is
15	where it got a bit complex.
16	You're going to see that today,
17	for example, with the AHRQ measures,
18	community-based measures, you know. So for
19	example, State-based measures that baby
20	percent tax.
21	I think we should, in some ways it
22	would great to actually have a measure like

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1	that come forward and actually begin to chew
2	on what is the actually evidence? What kind
3	of testing is required, a population level
4	versus a clinician level?
5	So I don't think we have any
6	guardrails, Ron, I think this is really an
7	opportunity for, particularly as you hear more
8	about the work Allen will describe of really
9	trying to think about what is the right place
10	for standardized measures in that broader
	nonulation hoolth anoso
11	population health space.
11 12	Anything you want to add, Robyn,
12	Anything you want to add, Robyn,
12 13	Anything you want to add, Robyn, or Elise, or anything?
12 13 14	Anything you want to add, Robyn, or Elise, or anything? MR. VALDEZ: I guess I have one
12 13 14 15	Anything you want to add, Robyn, or Elise, or anything? MR. VALDEZ: I guess I have one question I think that follows from what Helen
12 13 14 15 16	Anything you want to add, Robyn, or Elise, or anything? MR. VALDEZ: I guess I have one question I think that follows from what Helen just said which was something we struggled
12 13 14 15 16 17	Anything you want to add, Robyn, or Elise, or anything? MR. VALDEZ: I guess I have one question I think that follows from what Helen just said which was something we struggled with in the workgroup but I think applies to
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Anything you want to add, Robyn, or Elise, or anything? MR. VALDEZ: I guess I have one question I think that follows from what Helen just said which was something we struggled with in the workgroup but I think applies to the measure evaluation criteria.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Anything you want to add, Robyn, or Elise, or anything? MR. VALDEZ: I guess I have one question I think that follows from what Helen just said which was something we struggled with in the workgroup but I think applies to the measure evaluation criteria. Going forward is that historically
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Anything you want to add, Robyn, or Elise, or anything? MR. VALDEZ: I guess I have one question I think that follows from what Helen just said which was something we struggled with in the workgroup but I think applies to the measure evaluation criteria. Going forward is that historically we've thought about the purpose of the NQF

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1	accountability and I think that can envision
2	what public reporting looks like for a lot of
3	these measures.
4	Accountability becomes a lot more
5	challenging in the absence of accountability
6	programs that may fit what is a varying
7	definition of community between measures.
8	And so if a measure is specified
9	at the County or at the State or maybe not
10	even clearly within what community, how do we,
11	what's the guidance on envisioning
12	accountability because I could see it being
13	used for a variety of things in the future but
14	it may not be how we discuss it over the next
15	couple days?
16	MS. BURSTIN: Another good
17	question and one certainly, as Ron knows and
18	others, we struggled with the last round as
19	well and I think at this point it's so unclear
20	exactly what accountability will be in our
21	sort of emerging healthcare system.
22	I think it's fine to just have

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1	measures come in and then I think we also
2	heard on the last committee was that, you
3	know, our co-chair kept making the point as a
4	State Health Officer, I was accountable for
5	those measures.
6	So I think it's just not our
7	traditional lens of the doc, the nurse, the
8	clinic accountability, it is a larger level of
9	accountability and these are the kind of
10	things we'd love to explore with you as we
11	kind of get this work off and going.
12	MS. FRASIER: I would just make
13	the comment, it's the whole reason I agreed to
14	serve, is to figure out how we do this, how we
15	figure out the accountability beyond the
16	individual provider side because it's a much
17	broader landscape of what impacts well being
18	and I think it's the only reason I agreed to
19	serve.
20	MS. BURSTIN: And we're glad you
21	did, Renee, because I think one of the other
22	challenge as well is if you have a measure

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1	that's at the community level do you also want
2	to have sort of a companion measure that
3	allows the clinicians in that community to see
4	how they're doing and how comparable do those
5	need to be is another really important issue.
6	Is it enough to say to say they're
7	sort of in the same general area? You're
8	looking at smoking and smoking, but A may not
9	be specified the same way, or do you want to
10	have them comparable enough so that you're not
11	looking at measurement noise and you're
12	actually looking at true signal.
13	So there's are all the kinds of
14	issues we'll exploring.
15	MS. MUNTHALI: Okay. So we'll
16	turn it over to Allen Leavens who's our Senior
17	Director in Strategic Partnerships. Allen
18	will first talk about the MAP Families of
19	Population Health Measures and the Community
20	Action Guide, which we both work on.
21	MR. LEAVENS: Great. Thank you,
22	Elisa, and good morning to everyone. So this

1	first slide is showing the three population
2	health projects that NQF has currently
3	ongoing.
4	And the Health and Well Being
5	endorsement project, you can see on top, which
6	you're all here today to work on, and then the
7	MAP Family of Population Health Measures is a
8	project looking at basically the application
9	of these types of measures.
10	And the Population Health
11	Community Action Guide, which Elisa just
12	eluded to, is a much broader project looking
13	not only at the measures, but how can
14	communities take steps toward improving
15	population health with their populations.
16	So each of these projects is
17	aligned around the National Quality Strategy
18	three part aim, particularly the Health and
19	Well Being component, but what we've been
20	trying to do with all of these projects is
21	loop in the stakeholders and the committees
22	from each of the projects so that we're not

1	working in isolation.
2	Each of these projects has
3	information and input from the committees that
4	can valuable to the other committees. So
5	today I'm just going to take a little bit of
6	time to go through where we are with the other
7	two projects and then we'll be interested in
8	your input on those.
9	So just to give everybody a little
10	context in case you're not familiar with MAP,
11	the Measure Applications Partnership
12	originated through the Affordable Care Act and
13	basically the purpose is to convene multi-
14	stakeholder groups to provide input on
15	selection of quality measures for public
16	reporting payment and other programs.
17	So someone had brought up this is
18	sort of the traditional, what folks at NQF
19	think about in terms of the measures that are
20	endorsed, these are the types of programs that
21	we've traditionally thought about that MAP
22	weighs in on.

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1	So in terms of definitions for
2	family of measures as well as core measure
3	sets, families of measures are intended to be
4	basically a group of measures that span
5	programs, settings, level of analysis, and
6	populations for specific topic areas related
7	to the National Quality Strategy.
8	So we have a family of measures
9	focused on safety, care coordination, diabetes
10	and cardiovascular, which would be a
11	prevention treatment of the leading causes of
12	mortality and we've recently just convened the
13	group to focus on the population health family
14	of measures.
15	Core measure sets are derived from
16	the families so if you think about having a
17	family for each of these components of the
18	National Quality Strategy then you could draw
19	from each of those families, say if you're
20	trying to focus on a specific care setting
21	like outpatient or hospital, what are the
22	right measures from each of the National

1	Quality Strategy priority areas that are felt
2	to be high value that apply for each of those
3	settings, so basically just subsets of the
4	families of measures.
5	So what was interesting for the
6	MAP task force that weighed in on the
7	population health family of measures is that
8	we were starting to think a bit more broadly
9	about the application of measures beyond the
10	traditional programs that MAP weighs in on.
11	So one of the task force members
12	suggested developing use cases to help
13	everybody kind of think how that might
14	actually apply.
15	So the first use case, again, more
16	traditional looking at hospital and clinician
17	programs such as hospital value based
18	purchasing, physician quality reporting
19	system, et cetera.
20	The next level up was accountable
21	care organizations. It's not a big jump from
22	the first use case, but trying to think a

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1	little bit more systemwide and how measures
2	might be used more at a population level
3	rather than just an individual clinician or
4	hospital setting.
5	And then the next level was
6	community health needs assessment. Now this
7	still has somewhat of a healthcare focus
8	because it's driven by nonprofit hospitals,
9	but thinking more broadly not just in the
10	clinical setting but looking into the
11	community and what are the needs of that
12	community in terms of trying to improve more
13	upstream determinants of health.
14	And just, actually we had those
15	three use cases and then when the committee
16	met it was felt that we didn't have something
17	that even pushed the boundaries far enough so
18	someone suggested a public health use case
19	which wasn't explicitly defined but could be
20	something like a health department or a social
21	services agency but thinking even more broadly
22	beyond a typical clinical setting.

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1	So some of the topic areas that
2	the group used in terms of developing what we
3	called high leveraged opportunities were very
4	similar to what Elisa described for the
5	categories that you're using to think of the
6	measures as they're coming through for
7	endorsement such as the prevention and
8	treatment, typical measures, immunizations, et
9	cetera, maternal child health, nutrition,
10	physical activity and then some of the more
11	upstream measures like social determinants of
12	education, poverty, et cetera.
13	So those were the broad categories
14	that the group used in terms of trying to
15	think about what measures existed and what
16	measures were still needed.
17	And so what you see up here are
18	areas that the group specifically identified
19	as GAP areas for measures. So the measures
20	that were selected for the family are still
21	tentative. I didn't put those up because
22	we're still finalizing those.

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1	But even among the measures that
2	were selected these were areas that were felt
3	to still be lacking in both endorsed measures
4	and even in some cases indicators or other
5	metrics that may exist.
6	MR. CARILLO: Take questions now
7	or later?
8	MR. LEAVENS: We can start for
9	questions now. Just put it under a mike,
10	please.
11	MR. CARILLO: Any measures in
12	terms of culture, cultural competency,
13	language, health literacy, in that realm in
14	this domain?
15	MR. LEAVENS: Yes. I mean I don't
16	if it's captured specifically there but that
17	did come up in the group discussion. We also
18	have patient and family-centered care family
19	and I think it came up more directly in that
20	family of measures.
21	MR. CARILLO: Right, because
22	that's an important consideration, population

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1	health.
2	MR. LEAVENS: Right. So, again,
3	this
4	MR. MCINERNEY: Another question,
5	sorry.
6	MR. LEAVENS: Sure.
7	MR. MCINERNEY: I just saw that
8	the Institutes of Medicine has started to
9	address the social determinants of health and
10	they have an initial set of recommendations
11	and I wonder if there'll be some harmonization
12	between what we're doing and what they're
13	doing?
14	MR. LEAVENS: A great point. So
15	we did think about some, particularly for the
16	other project that I'll talk about in a
17	second.
18	Some of these other resources that
19	we have to look to, particularly IOM, some of
20	the work that is going around, healthy people,
21	and these other efforts that are focusing on
22	population health and we definitely want to

1	leverage that work forward.
2	So I won't go into each of these
3	in detail, but you can see that they do align
4	with a lot of the things that Elisa was
5	talking about and thinking more broadly about
6	upstream determinants of health rather than
7	just the typical clinical focus even if those
8	are prevention-oriented, which I think even a
9	step beyond those.
10	So the other project that we'll
11	talk about a little bit, and Elisa is also
12	very involved in this and Renee is also on
13	that committee, so please, you know, jump in
14	if I miss anything.
15	But essentially what this project
16	is focusing on is taking a much further step
17	back and looking not just at measurement but
18	how do you establish best principles for
19	bringing together the right stakeholders to
20	improve the health of a community?
21	So you can see some of the
22	questions that guided this work bringing the

1	right individuals and stakeholder groups
2	together.
3	The processes and methods that are
4	evidence-based and can most effectively bring
5	about improvements in health, what data
6	exists, the right measures, what incentives
7	drive alignment and coordination, and then
8	also thinking about affordability of all these
9	interventions that are needed to effectively
10	improve health.
11	So this project has been going on
12	since last Fall. There are multiple
13	stakeholders involved. The first year of the
14	project has involved doing an environmental
15	scan of existing efforts, so, again, the IOM
16	work, there's a lot of work being done through
17	the Government through CDC, AHRQ, HRSA, and
18	others that we've looked at.
19	A lot of collaborations, there's a
20	strong effort to do called the Practical
21	Playbook, that's doing something that's
22	somewhat similar, so we did essentially an

1	environmental scan to make sure that we're
2	trying to capture the good work that others
3	are already doing and incorporate it into this
4	work rather than duplicating existing work.
5	And what you see here is a list of
6	ten, what we call key elements, that looking
7	across all these different efforts were found
8	to be emphasized as important to work on
9	improvements in population health.
10	And I'll just go through these
11	real quickly, but the first step is really
12	looking, doing a self-assessment to see where
13	your organization is in terms of their
14	efforts.
15	So looking at your strengths and
16	weaknesses and what you really accomplish,
17	making sure you have the right leadership
18	within your organization and across
19	organizations that are collaborating together,
20	establishing an organizational planning and
21	priority setting process to make sure that you
22	have clear focus on your goals, doing a

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1	community health needs assessment and asset
2	mapping process, so this is something that
3	really received a lot of emphasis because
4	essentially until you know what the needs are
5	for a particular community and what strengths
6	you already have it's difficult to make a
7	forward progress.
8	An agreed upon prioritized set of
9	health improvement activities, so once you
10	know what needs exist and your strengths how
11	do you go about making those improvements and
12	making sure you're using evidence-based
13	practices as part of that effort.
14	And then Number 6 is particularly
15	relevant to this group and also the MAP task
16	force and that's the selection and use of the
17	measures and performance targets that are
18	needed to achieve your goals.
19	Number 7, audience-specific
20	strategic communication, so this is something
21	that was just brought up in terms of making
22	sure, you know, everybody understands, using

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1	plan language, what you're trying to
2	accomplish.
3	Number 8, joint reporting on
4	progress, so this ties in closely to the
5	measures making sure that it's very
6	transparent, what results are being achieved
7	or aren't being achieved, and that those are
8	areas that still need improvement.
9	And then the last two, looking
10	more broadly in terms of if your effort is
11	successful how you scale that out to either
12	other communities or even more broadly within
13	your current community and how do you sustain
14	this effort over time particularly given that
15	many projects start based on a grant that will
16	only exist for a few years and then you need
17	some sort of plan in place to make sure that
18	you can sustain that effort over time.
19	So the current state of this
20	project is we've just created a draft, the
21	committee has created a draft, we're calling
22	Action Guide, that was recently put up for

1	public comments and we've received a lot of
2	positive feedback.
3	That will be discussed actually
4	this Thursday, so if you're really motivated
5	I would encourage you to listen in to that web
6	meeting on Thursday for a couple hours to take
7	a look at the guide, it's still up on our
8	site, and we would be happy to receive
9	additional feedback on that. Thank you.
10	MR. BIALEK: I recognize that the
11	Community Action Guide goes well beyond
12	governmental public health, but the question
13	is, you know, I look at this and I think about
14	National Voluntary Accreditation for public
15	health agencies and also a lot of the quality
16	improvement and performance management efforts
17	going on in public health today and I'm
18	wondering how this aligns with those
19	activities?
20	MR. LEAVENS: So we actually have,
21	Kaye Bender is our co-chair for the committee,
22	so

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1	MR. BIALEK: Oh, I know.
2	MR. LEAVENS: Yes, yes. So she's
3	definitely, yes, she's been a great asset to
4	the group and we're definitely trying to stay
5	aligned with that effort.
6	MS. SAMPSEL: John?
7	MR. AUERBACH: Could you go back
8	to the previous working group, the group that
9	was the application of population health
10	measures?
11	And maybe I, could you summarize
12	what the outcome will be of that? Is there a
13	product or a deadline for the release of some
14	set of recommendations?
15	MR. LEAVENS: Right. So the
16	measure applications partnership actually has,
17	we're working on three different what we're
18	calling families of measures.
19	One for population health and then
20	the two others, we'll each be choosing a sort
21	of set of measures related to that particular
22	National Quality Strategy area.

1	So the one for population health
2	will have a defined set of both NQF endorsed
3	measures as well some non-endorsed measures
4	that relate to these topic areas and that will
5	be included in a report that will put up for
6	public comment in June and then the final
7	report will be released July 1st.
8	And the intent of those measures
9	traditionally has been to help support MAP
10	workgroups and the selection of measures for
11	the federal programs, such as PQRS, Hospital
12	Value-Based Purchasing, et cetera.
13	But, again, with the use cases the
14	task force was starting to try to think more
15	broadly how can, for instance, align better
16	with private efforts not just the federal
17	programs, but if, say individuals are, and
18	trying to establish and improvement program in
19	their community, what sort of measures might
20	they want to look to first as high value that
21	have been sort of vetted by this committee and
22	with stakeholder input to say that these are

1	good measures that you may want to start with
2	or at least look at.
3	MR. AUERBACH: May I ask just
4	maybe a follow-up question? It's just related
5	to the issue that, you know, I think is
6	admirable of trying to have alignment between
7	these various processes.
8	Because I noted as we had our
9	telephone conversations about the measures
10	that we're looking at today that there were a
11	number of measures, for instance we were, my
12	subcommittee was looking at diabetes where
13	there were natural complimentary, what might
14	be called broader population measures that
15	were suggested or just came up through that
16	process.
17	But we really try to stay focused
18	on the clinical measure in front of us. On
19	the other hand it just seemed like that was an
20	opportunity for us to think creatively about
21	whether there was something connected to that
22	specific clinical measure that might be worth

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1	considering at a population level in terms of
2	thinking about social determinants of health
3	or modifiable indicators.
4	So is there a thought about what
5	to do when that occurs? Is it inappropriate
6	for us in those discussions to say, you know,
7	to broaden those discussions to say okay,
8	we've talked about the clinical measure, let's
9	talk for a few minutes about whether or not
10	there might be some population-based measure
11	that might correlate well with that for, that
12	might be suggested to these other activities
13	that are underway?
14	MR. LEAVENS: Yes.
15	MS. MUNTHALI: No, I think that's
16	definitely within the parameters and call of
17	the committee and I would suggest that we
18	probably do that tomorrow during our
19	discussion of measurement GAP areas and
20	harmonization because we don't want to kind of
21	cloud the valuation of the measures that are
22	in front of us, but we also want to take away

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1	from the richness of this to help inform not
2	just this project but all of the other work
3	that we have around population health.
4	MR. CARILLO: Yes, just following
5	up on Ron's point, you know, as some of you
6	probably know the IRS, as part of Schedule H,
7	basically has a requirement that every
8	institution, private or otherwise, to maintain
9	their tax exempt status must conduct a
10	community health needs assessment.
11	So this is something that's so
12	wide sweeping across the Country, but I think
13	that there should be some alignment with that
14	along with the other things that Ron
15	mentioned.
16	MR. LEAVENS: So I'll just make a
17	quick comment on that. Actually that third
18	use case where we talked about the community
19	health needs assessment is directly driven by
20	that in sort of thinking about how perhaps the
21	MAP family of measures may help support groups
22	that are trying to think about what measures

1	do they need to accomplish that.
2	MR. VALDEZ: Robert Valdez. In
3	many ways the ten best practices, or whatever
4	it is you called them that's coming out in
5	your report, in many ways reflect the
6	learnings that come out of the American
7	Hospital Association's Foster McGaw prize
8	winners set of elements that made them winners
9	and why they were actually, to move population
10	health orientations out of the hospital and
11	into the community.
12	So I think this lines up fairly
13	well with those activities and if they could
14	be at least illustrated that way you can bring
15	this list to life actually.
16	MS. MUNTHALI: I just wanted to
17	add one more thing. I did circulate to the
18	committee the draft Action Guide. I'll do so
19	again and encourage you to participate on the
20	call on May 1st.
21	You might not want to sit in
22	another meeting, but it's just a short call

1	from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. Eastern time on May
2	2nd, 1st sorry, on Thursday. I'll send that
3	information to you as well.
4	So during that call we will
5	discuss the comments that were received during
6	the public comment period that Allen mentioned
7	and hopefully further refine the Guide before
8	we put out the guide for year one later on
9	this year.
10	MR. LEAVENS: So, thank you, and
11	if there are any other questions or input I
12	will be happy to receive those. Thank you.
13	MS. KHAN: Thanks, Allen. I guess
14	we can turn it over to our co-chairs now to
15	lead the rest of the meeting.
16	MS. SAMPSEL: Great. So, thank
17	you, Allen, for that overview and we are now
18	going to move into the measure evaluation and
19	review section of our Agenda.
20	And before doing that, you know,
21	just wanted to bring up some general reminders
22	about what we want to do through this process.

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1	I think, and hopefully, most everyone had the
2	opportunity to participate in at least one of
3	the workgroup calls over the past few weeks,
4	and those really set the stage for this
5	conversation here today.
6	But they're also reminders
7	regarding the measures and reviewing the
8	measures as they're specified and presented to
9	us.
10	You know, in an ideal situation
11	there are perfect measures and they meet all
12	the criteria that we all want to cover, but
13	the reality is, is, you know, we're basing
14	measures on evidence as well as use and how
15	they were developed by each of the measure
16	developers.
17	So one of the changes in the
18	process that Elisa mentioned earlier is that
19	the measure developers will have an
20	opportunity to introduce their measures to us
21	today as well as be here for any questions
22	that we have.

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1	I, personally, from serving on
2	other standing committees think that is a
3	great improvement, especially for those
4	measures that we're not as familiar with.
5	We'll be reviewing a number of
6	dental measures today and, you know, a lot of
7	us aren't familiar with the data that supports
8	dental measures as well as some of that
9	scientific background because it's not the
10	typical diabetes or heart disease type
11	measures.
12	So as we go through this part of
12 13	So as we go through this part of the section the developers will introduce
13	the section the developers will introduce
13 14	the section the developers will introduce their measures at the start and, you know, for
13 14 15	the section the developers will introduce their measures at the start and, you know, for those that are here in person they'll have
13 14 15 16	the section the developers will introduce their measures at the start and, you know, for those that are here in person they'll have lovely front row seats up here towards the
13 14 15 16 17	the section the developers will introduce their measures at the start and, you know, for those that are here in person they'll have lovely front row seats up here towards the front of the table.
13 14 15 16 17 18	the section the developers will introduce their measures at the start and, you know, for those that are here in person they'll have lovely front row seats up here towards the front of the table. And then we'll have the workgroup
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	the section the developers will introduce their measures at the start and, you know, for those that are here in person they'll have lovely front row seats up here towards the front of the table. And then we'll have the workgroup members who had been assigned the measures to,
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	the section the developers will introduce their measures at the start and, you know, for those that are here in person they'll have lovely front row seats up here towards the front of the table. And then we'll have the workgroup members who had been assigned the measures to, between each of us go through and bring out

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1	lead us into our formal evaluation.
2	I think there will be a break
3	before we go into our first one, not a break,
4	but more of one for NQF staff to hand us all
5	our little voting mechanisms, make sure they
6	all work, and that's part of the process as
7	well, is ensuring that those votes are
8	captured and we will ask that everybody makes
9	sure they're paying attention, that these
10	little voting mechanisms are working for
11	everybody.
12	With that, Tom, do you have
13	anything else you want to add?
14	MR. MCINERNEY: No, that was
15	great, thanks.
16	MS. SAMPSEL: Elisa?
17	MS. MUNTHALI: That's perfect.
18	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. Then our
19	first measure this morning is the
20	Gastroenteritis Admission Rate and I think
21	that's Mike Stoto and Jacki Moline.
22	MS. KHAN: I just want to check

1	with Kathy, do we have Pamela Owens and
2	Patrick Romano and Carol Stocks on the phone?
3	OPERATOR: No, ma'am, they haven't
4	joined yet.
5	MS. KHAN: Okay.
6	MS. SAMPSEL: So I think what
7	we're going to do since the AHRQ folks have
8	not joined yet this morning is we're going to
9	skip ahead in the Agenda a bit and go ahead
10	and start with the dental measures, and we do
11	have a representative here from the Dental
12	Quality Alliance who's going to introduce the
13	measure set before we get going in our
14	conversations.
15	Okay, so now we're going to have a
16	five to 10-minute break. So if folks could
17	come back and be ready to start by a quarter
18	of.
19	(Whereupon, the foregoing matter
20	went off the record at 9:35 a.m. and went back
21	on the record at 9:45 a.m.)
22	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, folks, if we
1	can go ahead and get seated we're going to get
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2	started again.
3	So, with that, as introduced prior
4	to our brief little break we are going to jump
5	to the dental measures and we're going to
6	start it off with having the Dental Quality
7	Alliance and Dr. Crall and
8	FEMALE PARTICIPANT: Krishna
9	Aravamudhan.
10	MS. SAMPSEL: well we're just
11	going to go with Krishna, are going to
12	introduce their measure set and then we'll go
13	ahead and start our discussion. So I will
14	turn it over to the two of you.
15	MS. ARAVAMUDHAM: I'd like to
16	start off by really, really thanking the
17	committee for letting us do this and provide
18	you a quick overview of our measures.
19	There are six measures that were
20	submitted and we'd like to take this
21	opportunity to address the concerns that were
22	expressed by the workgroup, the comments that

1	were made up front, and some of these go
2	across all the measures so hopefully we'll be
3	able to give you some additional input from
4	our end on how things work and what our
5	thought processes were as we develop these
6	measures.
7	So thank you very much for
8	indulging us and I will start off, and I'll
9	team with Dr. Crall. I'd like him to
10	introduce himself as well before he speaks.
11	I am the lead staff for the Dental
12	Quality Alliance and simply am the messenger
13	here and hopefully we'll bring you accurately
14	the thought processes that went in.
15	Dr. Crall is the chair of our
16	measure development committee that led all
17	this work. It took us two years to put all of
18	this together and we're so glad to be here at
19	this point.
20	Over the last two years we've put
21	together a whole set of measures that deals
22	with the pediatric population. It's a set of

1	ten measures, but we've chosen to only submit
2	six to NQF due to a number of reasons,
3	including time and resources that it takes to
4	prepare an NQF submission.
5	So we took the most, you know, the
6	six of these and then submitted to NQF. I
7	jump straight to the concerns that were
8	expressed by the workgroup and try to address
9	each of these.
10	The first concern, of course, was
11	the lack of outcome measures and that most of
12	these measures are access or process measures.
13	Dentistry and dental data is very, very
14	limited in terms of lacking any diagnostic
15	coding in the system.
16	We simply don't have diagnostic
17	codes in the claims data for us to be able to
18	measure outcomes. All of these measures are
19	based off of dental claims data. These are
20	meant for programmatic plan level assessment.
21	So given that broad limitation we
22	simply couldn't go down the path of outcome

1	measures. Is my mike okay?
2	MALE PARTICIPANT: Move back
3	MS. ARAVAMUDHAM: Okay, move back
4	a little. Okay. So we couldn't measure
5	outcomes that's the first thing. The next big
6	concern that was expressed by the workgroup,
7	of course, was the concept of dental versus
8	oral health services.
9	For this portion I'm going to turn
10	to Dr. Crall to take us through the thought
11	process that we had.
12	MR. CRALL: Oops, sorry. Thank
13	you, Krishna. So thank you again for the
14	opportunity, both to hear from the workgroup
15	in advance and to be here today to give you
16	the overview of these measures.
17	As Krishna said the DQA's a fairly
18	new organization, launched just a little over
19	three years ago over in the Humphrey Building
20	here in Washington and then we put together
21	the structure and have been working on these
22	measures ever since.

1	The initial set of measures really
2	reflect to some degree, as Krishna indicated,
3	the limitations of data that are widely
4	available, but we believe because we wanted to
5	have measures that were broadly impactful
6	across both public sector programs as well as
7	private commercial programs, that we wanted to
8	start with a set of measures that actually
9	could be widely used and for which data would
10	be available.
11	So I'm going to talk just briefly
12	about this notion about dental services and
13	oral health services because it is an area
14	that if you're not sort of immersed in this
15	may strike you as a little unusual.
16	So as I mentioned we're looking
17	for measures that will really apply broadly
18	across public programs for children, being
19	primarily Medicaid and the CHIP Program,
20	although clearly with the advent of the ACA
21	and the inclusion of pediatric services,
22	including oral health services, as the States

1	look to implement those with guidance from
2	DHHS.
3	That will be a relevant universe
4	as well as well as just kids who are covered
5	by commercial plans, employer sponsor
6	benefits. So the whole DQA was actually
7	started at the behest of CMS.
8	They came initially to the ADA and
9	asked them to convene a group, a broad group
10	stakeholders, and we have about 30 members of
11	the DQA now including several federal
12	agencies, all the dental provider
13	organizations, but also organizations like the
14	joint commission and the AMA, we have AHIP.
15	So we have a fairly broad group
16	that we've looked to try to get input from and
17	to reach consensus as we put forward these
18	measures.
19	We looked to develop measures that
20	were applicable in the current day
21	marketplace. Always, of course, with an eye
22	on the future and we know there's a great deal

1	of speculation about how benefits will be
2	transformed or changed going forward, but we
3	are looking to develop measures that could be
4	immediately applicable.
5	So we know from data compiled by
6	the National Association of Dental Plans that
7	roughly 99 percent of the dental benefits that
8	are provided in this Country are provided
9	through what are known as standalone dental
10	plans.
11	And at the State level,
12	particularly in public programs, what that
13	means is that many States have chosen to what
14	is so called carve out dental benefits and
15	they deal with those directly, not under some
16	kind of a global arrangement.
17	And typically even when there is a
18	global arrangement it's very common for the
19	overarching entity to subcontract out with a
20	standalone dental plan to provide those
21	benefits.
22	They simply have the

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1	infrastructure, they have the networks, and
2	it's a different sector, not that there isn't
3	some overlap between the two and not that many
4	groups aren't working to try to build better
5	integration across the various health
6	disciplines.
7	So that's the rationale for us
8	starting with dental measures and oral health
9	measures. I'll say that we, the DQA as
10	Krishna mentioned, we developed a broader set
11	of measures and we were able to bring forward
12	for the DQA right now.
13	So in our measures we have
14	measures that parallel the CMS 416 approach
15	and this is fairly new within CMS. Up until
16	about 2010 they looked at only dental measures
17	and dental defined all the way back to October
18	'89 as services provided by or under the
19	supervision of a dentist.
20	In 2010 CMS changed its EPSDT
21	reporting requirements that States comply with
22	and added some additional measures that are

1	referred to as oral health measures.
2	And those oral measures, you know,
3	it's a little bit of a cumbersome definition.
4	The term non-dentist has been used over time,
5	a lot of people have, you know, some concern,
6	you know, they just don't get it when you say
7	non something, but that's basically the way
8	that they are defined.
9	And in the CMS parlance it's
10	licensed practitioners that is not a dentist,
11	so it's provided by or under the direction of
12	somebody who's not a dentist.
13	And the examples that they provide
14	include things like pediatricians or family
15	physicians or nurse practitioners or dental
16	hygienists, who in some States are allowed to
17	practice without direct supervision in
18	typically what's known as community based
19	practice.
20	So CMS using the segmentation of
21	dental services, oral health services, and
22	then they also include a measure that is both

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1	so that you get the combination.
2	So if you look at the data from a
3	recent CMS 416 report you basically see that
4	over 97 percent of all children receive dental
5	services. Only about 7 percent receive oral
6	health services and the overlap between the
7	two is about 4 percent.
8	So, you know, as I said, there's
9	been a lot of work over a decade or more,
10	probably closer to two decades, because a
11	certain general's report was done and, you
12	know, an oral health was done in the year
13	2000.
14	But still it's slow to change
15	systems as you know. So the DQA we want to
16	clear up the misconception, this is not just
17	about something that a dentist would directly
18	do.
19	As long as it's under some sort of
20	a system or arrangement where the dentist is
21	the responsible person for supervising or
22	authorizing the care, other types of providers

1	including dental therapists, advanced practice
2	therapists, which are relatively new and used
3	in a few States in this County, and dental
4	hygienists could be included.
5	The oral health services as I
6	mentioned earlier are primarily capturing data
7	that are provided by medical primary care
8	providers.
9	So in our overall DQA measure set
10	we have multiple denominators and the
11	denominators do this differentiation between
12	dental services, oral health services, or the
13	combined measure.
14	We also took some direction from
15	measures that had already been endorsed by NQF
16	and so we know in the annual dental visit
17	measure, the HEDIS measure, it's reference to
18	visits with a dental practitioner.
19	On the primary care side you have
20	primary care as prevention as a measure 1419
21	and then you also have children who receive
22	preventative dental and that must have seen a

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1	dentist.
2	So that helped to formulate our
3	approach up to this point. And with that I'm
4	going to turn it over to Krishna.
5	MS. ARAVAMUDHAM: Thank you very
6	much. So that was in terms of the dental and
7	oral health services component that the
8	workgroup had significant concerns on
9	throughout all the different measures.
10	There were also some concerns
11	regarding the exclusion language, the intent
12	of what we wanted to do is very similar to
13	what the workgroup expressed. We simply
14	picked up the language from what CMS currently
15	has.
16	So we are totally willing to
17	editorially revise the footnote that exists
18	for the exclusion to make it clearer if it is
19	not so, the intent is definitely what the
20	workgroup suggested.
21	The other two concerns that were
22	expressed were very specific to the sealant

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1	measure and the care continuity measure. With
2	the sealant measure there was some concern
3	based on why is this limited to a specific age
4	group, a specific tooth, and so on and so
5	forth.
6	So the reason is we followed the
7	evidence-based guidelines very, very closely.
8	The evidence-based guidelines, and there's
9	very strong evidence from Cochrane Reviews,
10	we've tried to make sure that we present it to
11	you within our evidence forums everything that
12	exists and we are very pleased that many of
13	our measures are actually strongly supported
14	by Cochrane Reviews, which is a big deal.
15	So the sealant measure is one
16	measure that is strongly supported by evidence
17	and the importance of this measure is there is
18	a huge performance gap of the community.
19	We have known about this for a
20	long time and we're still not able to see that
21	improvement go through. So this is very near
22	and dear to our hearts in terms of moving this

1	measure forward.
2	And the reason why it is based on
3	age is we want to really spend the target, the
4	resources to where it's absolutely needed.
5	It's needed in the high risk groups and there
6	is risk assessment performed, there are codes
7	available for risk, there are new codes.
8	Those codes were actually
9	implemented as part of this process so we were
10	able to influence a procedure coding system to
11	help make measurement possible.
12	We have some logic in there for
13	risk, past history of caries is one of the
14	most important and valid indicators for caries
15	risk, so we have some logic in there, it's an
16	"or" clause.
17	If you have the code for risk
18	assessment use it, if not at least go back and
19	identify the core group of kids that
20	absolutely need this intervention. So that's
21	what this measure is focused on.
22	So ages 6 to 9 aligns with the

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1	eruption of the permanent molars and then we
2	have the risk logic, the tooth is permanent
3	molars, that's what the guideline says,
4	evidence is there to support that that's the
5	tooth that gets affected and, you know, you
6	have both resource and outcomes based on all
7	of that. So that's in terms of the sealant
8	measure.
9	The next concern that was
10	expressed was about the care continuity
11	measure and the evidence that's available for
12	the care continuity measure.
13	So anyone who has worked in the
14	evidence-based guidelines space will recognize
15	this very clearly as soon as you have evidence
16	presented to the panel, it really can go
17	either way unless you have strong RCTs all
18	telling you the quality, quantity, consistency
19	criteria met and everything going in one
20	direction.
21	So, again, we have Cochrane
22	Reviews, but it is a weak level of evidence

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1	for this based on Cochrane Reviews which rely
2	on RCTs.
3	But then we went ahead and looked
4	for other guidelines as well to support this
5	and I'd like to quote this from the Bright
6	Future's Guideline, which is "The evidence and
7	rationale section where lack of evidence is
8	problematic in many spaces, not simply in
9	dentistry, especially when it comes to
10	screening and intervention."
11	And this is what Bright Future
12	says for these components the expert panels
13	relied in a direct approach buttressed by
14	their considerable expertise and clinical
15	experience and that's exactly what we did as
16	well.
17	So we took the evidence that's
18	there today, ran it through a consensus
19	process, as Dr. Crall mentioned, the DQA is
20	really in alliance of watershed of everything
21	that represents the dental community.
22	And everyone agreed that this is

1	something that's really important to move the
2	ball forward in terms of oral health. So
3	that's there in terms of the evidence for care
4	continuity.
5	Every other measure we have the
6	evidence listed inside the evidence testing
7	forms and that's about it in terms of, you
8	know, addressing the concerns expressed from
9	the committee.
10	Again, we'd like to thank you all
11	for your attention and for the time that you
12	gave us this morning and we'll willing to
13	answer any questions.
14	MR. CRALL: And I would just like
15	to add, I mean you can hear Krishna's evidence
16	base, she was involved in the evidence base
17	world before she came to us and the DQA.
18	The other person with us here
19	today is Dr. Jill Herndon, sitting at the
20	table here from the University of Florida,
21	Institute for Child Health Policy.
22	We awarded a contract through a

1	competitive process to the Institute to do the
2	testing of our measures. They had access to
3	data from two large States for a Medicaid
4	Program, CHIP Program, and some commercial
5	data as well.
6	And Jill and her colleagues have
7	just been an incredible asset and resource to
8	us in doing the testing which we know is very
9	important as the broaden measures movement
10	moves forward, but historically it hasn't been
11	all that robust particularly within the dental
12	measures world.
13	So Jill is here as well for if we
14	get into any technical questions about the
15	testing.
16	MS. SAMPSEL: So what we're going
17	to do know is go ahead and move into the
18	measures and what, you know, with the new
19	process of the having the developers here as
20	well as Dr. Crall, you all are also, can turn
21	this up if you have any questions through any
22	of the process, but we'll ask members to do

that as well. 1 2 But we'll go ahead and start going through the measures and, Tom. 3 MR. MCINERNEY: 4 I just want to provide a little background and ask for a 5 little help in my understanding. You know, 6 7 we've had water fluoridation for a long, long time and that certainly is a big help in 8 9 preventing dental caries. 10 However, it's my impression as a 11 pediatrician that water fluoridation now is 12 not as effective as it used to be for several 13 different reasons. 14 Mainly, families are not using tap 15 water that much anymore. Unfortunately, in many cases they're using juice or other 16 17 beverages and worse yet these are often high 18 in sugars. 19 But they've turned to bottled 20 waters in huge amounts and bottled water 21 generally does not have any fluoride and so I 22 think, my suspicion is that the incidents of

1	dental caries may have hit a nadir and is now
2	on the way back up again because of this.
3	And so it makes this whole
4	business of trying to prevent dental caries
5	even more important now than it was perhaps
6	ten or 15 years ago and I just wonder if you
7	could confirm that for me please?
8	MR. CRALL: Certainly. I'll start
9	and then Krishna can add. Well, as a
10	pediatrician you're absolutely right. Your
11	reality I think confirms the broader data
12	sources.
13	Clearly data from in Haines,
14	periodic in Haines have shown us that what
15	there's an increase in for the most part is
16	what we call early childhood caries, so that's
17	tooth decay occurring in children before the
18	age of six years of age.
19	And we know that that's an
20	absolutely critical time. There is some
21	evidence from both the U.S. and from other
22	Countries to suggest that those first three to

1	five years of life are really important in
2	setting a positive health trajectory for
3	children.
4	And consistent with recent
5	guidelines, and I'll say recent meaning that
6	they're, you know, probably at least ten plus
7	years in the dental world and actually they're
8	11 years old in the pediatric world as well,
9	the AAP Guidelines, that now suggest that
10	individuals who are trained to do so should
11	start assessing caries risk in young children
12	as early as six months of age.
13	Any child found to be at high risk
14	should be referred to what we call a dental
15	home for analogous to the medical home by one
16	year of age.
17	So, again, just as with the
18	sealants, changing systems, changing provider
19	behaviors, is not easy, but by creating
20	measures and highlighting the importance of
21	things that are clearly evidence-based like
22	sealants and fluorides, absolutely we think

1	that that's the first place to start and
2	hopefully will be at least one part of the
3	continuing emphasis on that.
4	Because the fight on water
5	fluoridation is not over, the anti-
6	fluoridationists are very strong and
7	persuasive and it's a constant battle to keep
8	water fluoridation even in places that have
9	it.
10	But you're, I think you're right.
11	In the National data, again, that we have
12	dated from many States, and then within that
13	the whole issue about caries risk and we know
14	at a population level low income individuals,
15	individuals from certain races and
16	ethnicities, and recent immigrants are often
17	times the groups that are at high risk.
18	The challenge moving forward, and
19	it's a movement that we fully support is to
20	once you get beyond the population
21	characteristics that define risk, to start
22	looking individual, child by child, and to be

1	able to differentiate because not all children
2	on Medicaid are at high risk for caries, but
3	just a higher proportion than in other
4	segments of the population.
5	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay.
6	MS. ARAVAMUDHAM: Just another
7	note about water fluoridation. We were at a
8	public health conference just yesterday where
9	we talked about there is a water fluoridation
10	challenge in every one of the 50 States, every
11	single one there is some challenge.
12	Infrastructure is becoming old and
13	now the County Governments are faced with a
14	challenge of, you know, renewing the
15	infrastructure and spending money towards
16	fluoridating the water versus just letting it
17	go.
18	And so we're facing a challenge in
19	every State of this Country, so that's
20	something we are trying to address as well.
21	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay.
22	MS. SAMPSEL: So with that we'll

1	move into Measure 2508, Prevention, Dental
2	Sealants for 6 to 9 Year Old Children at
3	Elevated Caries Risk. Dr. Krol, did you want
4	to kick us off?
5	MR. KROL: Sure. So this measure
6	is a process measure focused on whether 6 to
7	9 year old children at moderate to high caries
8	risk receive a dental sealant on a first
9	permanent molar.
10	The connection between the process
11	and the health outcome is stated in the
12	following way. Timely placement of dental
13	sealants on permanent first molars have
14	demonstrated effectiveness in reducing caries,
15	dental decay, tooth decay, among children
16	thereby improving oral health, overall health,
17	and overall well-being.
18	A clinical practice guideline from
19	the American Dental Association and a Cochrane
20	Review are presented as evidence to support
21	the measure.
22	The Cochrane Review, as well as a

1	meta-analysis are used as evidence in the ADA
2	clinical practice guideline. The ADA
3	guideline does not give an age or a specific
4	molar for sealant placement, but says sealants
5	should be placed on pits and fishers of
6	children's and adolescent's permanent teeth
7	when it is determined that the tooth of the
8	patient is at risk for developing caries.
9	The strength of the recommendation
10	is graded B directly based on Category 2
11	evidence or an extrapolated recommendation for
12	Category 1 evidence.
13	The evidence upon which this
14	recommendation is based is rated as 1(a),
15	which is evidence from systematic reviews of
16	randomized controlled trials. Evidence rating
17	is high, although the age range is not clearly
18	delineated in the evidence as far as I could
19	tell, but rather based on risk level.
20	Is this how, can we just go
21	through 1(a) through like we did on the call
22	or is there a way that you'd like me to do

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1	this any differently?
2	MS. SAMPSEL: I guess if others on
3	the call have anything to add to 1(a) or if
4	there's discussion about that. Okay?
5	MR. KROL: Okay.
6	MS. SAMPSEL: Proceed.
7	MR. KROL: Okay. 1(b),
8	performance gap, data are made available that
9	demonstrates a variation in performance of
10	dental sealant placement on children ages 6 to
11	9. It's not clear how the risk status of the
12	6 to 9 year olds was documented or applied to
13	the numerator and denominator.
14	It's also not clear how many first
15	permanent molars are sealed. Presumably, a
16	child with four first molars with one sealed
17	was qualified as much as a child with four
18	molars and four sealants and one molar and one
19	sealant, et cetera.
20	There are also data that support
21	the existence of disparities by age, race,
22	ethnicity, geographic area, and family income.

1	So I rated that as a high rated choice. Shall
2	I stop there or go onto 1(c) and should I just
3	continue through or what would you prefer?
4	MS. SAMPSEL: I think Jason may
5	have a comment.
6	MR. SPANGLER: I have a process
7	question. Are we going to be voting on these
8	each at a time? Because I know I've done this
9	before, we voted on evidence and then we voted
10	on performance GAP and then we voted on
11	importance and stuff like that or are we
12	MS. SAMPSEL: We're going to go
13	through the full discussion first.
14	MR. SPANGLER: Okay.
15	MS. SAMPSEL: So that's, it is a
16	good question. So we'll have each member of
17	the committee deal with your assigned measure,
18	is go through the discussion bringing up the
19	salient points for each of the high level
20	variables of, you know, whether it's the
21	importance to measure and report, feasibility,
22	et cetera.

1	We'll have a full discussion with
2	the opportunity for the developers to answer
3	any questions, to offer any clarification, and
4	then we'll go through and vote on each area
5	because there are some areas that, you know,
6	they are must pass elements and we won't go
7	any further if the measure doesn't meet those
8	must pass elements.
9	So, you know, just bring up the
10	highlights for any specific measure and then
11	we'll have discussion.
12	MR. KROL: Okay. So as far as
13	high priority the data are made available for
14	the percentage of children who have dental
15	disease.
16	The ADA previous reported on
17	higher disease rates in certain populations,
18	i.e, minority populations and poor
19	populations, and the disease is noted as the
20	utmost common chronic disease of childhood.
21	So let's move to reliability and
22	all that, so 2(a)(1) and 2(b)(1)

1	specifications. So the information provided
2	regarding the numerator and the denominator
3	with respect to age and dental service code
4	per sealant and per tooth upon which it was
5	placed well define each.
6	We talked about this on the call
7	and I'll bring this up if you feel it's
8	appropriate, but please stop me if you don't
9	think it is.
10	So what's not clear is the
11	definition of elevated risk, is there's a very
12	large number of CDT codes to determine that.
13	Now it was addressed on here so I'm not sure
14	if you want me to go into all that.
15	Not knowing what those stand for
16	and not knowing how that array of CDT codes is
17	seen as an accurate definition of elevated
18	risk it's hard to determine the quality of the
19	measure.
20	It's also not clear to me how a
21	child with one of four teeth sealed is of
22	equal quality to one who is two of four or

1	four of four and does not see it possible to
2	determine that with this measure.
3	Is the child at elevated risk, or
4	the tooth, or both, and can a tooth be at risk
5	but not a child? How does one determine that
6	here or is that not important?
7	One of the evidence sources,
8	Beauchamp, gives either as the determination
9	of risk, so it's either child or tooth. So I
10	had some concerns about the consistent
11	implementation of the definition of risk
12	
12	status.
13	status. What doesn't quite make sense
13	What doesn't quite make sense
13 14	What doesn't quite make sense also, and this is a separate issue, is how the
13 14 15	What doesn't quite make sense also, and this is a separate issue, is how the service is provided by and independent dental
13 14 15 16	What doesn't quite make sense also, and this is a separate issue, is how the service is provided by and independent dental hygienist as coded in the numerator?
13 14 15 16 17	What doesn't quite make sense also, and this is a separate issue, is how the service is provided by and independent dental hygienist as coded in the numerator? The logic states that if the
13 14 15 16 17 18	What doesn't quite make sense also, and this is a separate issue, is how the service is provided by and independent dental hygienist as coded in the numerator? The logic states that if the rendering provider taxonomy code equals any of
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	What doesn't quite make sense also, and this is a separate issue, is how the service is provided by and independent dental hygienist as coded in the numerator? The logic states that if the rendering provider taxonomy code equals any of those listed in Table 1 then include them in

1	So that one didn't quite make
2	sense and that was somewhat addressed in the
3	presentation. Reliability testing, not done
4	using statistical tests with the measure as
5	specified.
6	The authors though do make a case
7	that the measure relies on standard data
8	fields commonly used in administrative data
9	and that inter-rater reliability doesn't
10	apply.
11	Yes, I can skip some of that to
12	move more quickly. Why don't I go to validity
13	testing. So the validity testing for this
14	measure assessed critical data element
15	validity, measures score validity, and
16	potential threats to validity.
17	All of that seemed to be well
18	done. I had no concerns about that. No
19	issues for any of the other 2(b)'s. Addressed
20	missing data although there was some
21	discussion on our call about the exclusions.
22	I don't know if anybody wants to

1	bring that up at this point. That was
2	addressed a bit and the willingness to change
3	the language. I know, Bob, you had brought
4	that up on the call previously.
5	MR. VALDEZ: Yes. Yes, I brought
6	that up on the call and it affects all of the
7	dental measures and as part of the
8	presentation and certainly in the presentation
9	they made clear the intent of what they wanted
10	to say much better than what they put in this
11	document.
12	I don't know how you handle that,
13	whether it's an amendment that they do?
14	Because I think they were asking that on the
14 15	Because I think they were asking that on the call as well.
15	call as well.
15 16	call as well. MS. KHAN: So just one
15 16 17	call as well. MS. KHAN: So just one housekeeping thing. There can only be three
15 16 17 18	call as well. MS. KHAN: So just one housekeeping thing. There can only be three mikes on at a time so if someone has it on
15 16 17 18 19	call as well. MS. KHAN: So just one housekeeping thing. There can only be three mikes on at a time so if someone has it on just turn it off when you're done speaking.
15 16 17 18 19 20	call as well. MS. KHAN: So just one housekeeping thing. There can only be three mikes on at a time so if someone has it on just turn it off when you're done speaking. But what we can do is after the

1 clarification in the forum. 2 MR. KROL: Sorry. Do you want me to continue? 3 MS. SAMPSEL: 4 Yes. 5 MR. KROL: So Criterion 3, feasibility, the overall rating was high 6 7 These are administrative data so as there. long as someone decides to bill for the 8 9 service then it'll be accurate. 10 As far as usability and use, it's right now currently used in Texas for their 11 12 Medicaid and CHIP Programs, also being 13 suggested for use in Connecticut. 14 It's not quite yet, it's not yet 15 clear evidence that it's being shown to improve care or quality, but likely too early 16 17 as it's just been implemented in Texas, but 18 that was addressed previously. And I guess 19 that's it. 20 MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, so let's go 21 back up a little bit to the top and talk 22 briefly about importance and see if anybody

1	had any questions or additional comments or if
2	there was anything that the DQA wanted to
3	address in that area.
4	MR. BIALEK: A question about one
5	of the comments from the workgroup regarding
6	the data, and there was a comment that if the
7	sealant was applied by a dental hygienist it
8	wasn't captured and then I think the response
9	back was well, yes, it is, but I wasn't sure?
10	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: It is captured.
11	So the other codes that are listed within the
12	spec sheet, each of those spec sheets
13	references a user guide. We did not put that
14	in the appendix, we should have.
15	But the user guide specifically
16	describes each of the codes and it is captured
17	in the numerator.
18	MR. VALDEZ: This is Robert
19	Valdez.
20	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Go ahead.
21	MR. VALDEZ: Were you referring to
22	the exclusion of the provider specific piece

1	or the hygienist that was under the direct
2	supervision of a dentist?
3	MR. BIALEK: I was just referring
4	to whether or not the child received the
5	sealant, didn't matter really who applied it.
6	And I was, the bulleted point in here looked
7	like it might be excluded if it was applied by
8	the hygienist and the response was well, it's
9	not. It doesn't matter who applies it that
10	it's captured.
11	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So the way the
12	dentist services again works is anything
13	that's done or under the supervision, and most
14	of the State Practice Acts have either direct
15	or remote supervision.
16	Any kind of remote supervision,
17	anything would fall under the dental services
18	and that would be captured.
19	MS. SAMPSEL: John, did you have a
20	question?
21	MR. AUERBACH: My question was
22	about numerator and denominator and, you know,

1	in part, and maybe you can speak to the
2	coverage issue and I know in many States oral
3	health coverage changes quite regularly in
4	terms of coverage.
5	And also, so just in terms of
6	that, just the, you know, your comfort level
7	with variations in terms of coverage and
8	therefore presumably reporting, and I don't
9	know whether for instance public health
10	programs sometimes provide sealant programs
11	but may not be reporting those in ways that
12	can be captured.
13	And then just on the third part of
14	that, is just the size of the population that
15	may not be say Medicaid eligible are
16	considered to be a moderate to high risk?
17	considered to be a moderate to high risk?
	MR. CRALL: Let me start with that
18	
18 19	MR. CRALL: Let me start with that
	MR. CRALL: Let me start with that and then let Krishna add. So I think the key
19	MR. CRALL: Let me start with that and then let Krishna add. So I think the key phrase that David used was if somebody submits
19 20	MR. CRALL: Let me start with that and then let Krishna add. So I think the key phrase that David used was if somebody submits a claim and it's billable, because that is the
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1	that were provided.
2	I think, you know, your point is
3	right. If for some reason somebody had a,
4	let's say a grant funded program in the
5	community and they had someone that the State
6	laws allowed to provide those sealants, that
7	wouldn't necessarily be captured here because
8	this comes through claims data.
9	But, again, you know, the evidence
10	we have is that the vast majority of services
11	are captured in this mechanism and we didn't
12	get into the, sort of the weeds about direct
13	supervision or any of those things.
14	If it's allowed, if that practice
15	and setting is allowed in any State then
16	that's what should be captured in the measure.
17	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: If I might add
18	on to that. I was very enamored with the
19	discussion this morning in terms of, you know,
20	all of the different types and population
21	health.
22	I think what our strategy is to

1	look, I don't know whether this is a right
2	term, but a family of measures, if you will,
3	where the concept focuses we need to get the
4	sealant rate up. That's the goal.
5	And then you have okay, here is a
6	measure that applies to the plan and here is
7	the measure that apply to another because the
8	attribution is different, the my patients is
9	different for each of these groups.
10	And so then you work on each of
11	your parts in the healthcare delivery system
12	and then all of your targeted National goal of
13	improving sealants.
14	So the mechanics of the measure
15	will be different for each of these
16	components, but all of you are going towards
17	that goal. So these measures simply address
18	the program and the plan level.
19	And then you'll have other similar
20	kind of components adding on. So, yes, I
21	think we answered two of your questions, we
22	may not have answered one, but I forgot which

1	one that was.
2	MR. AUERBACH: The size of the
3	population that may fall into the risk
4	category
5	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Yes.
6	MR. AUERBACH: but may not be
7	captured because of Medicaid or insurance
8	coverage.
9	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So the way the
10	risk logic, there are two things to this.
11	There was a lot of churn, I think you're
12	referring to the churn in Medicaid with oral
13	health where people come in and go out.
14	And that was a huge concern for us
15	and the way we And there's a lot of debate
16	in the oral health community as how to address
17	this churn, whether the program plan should be
18	accountable for everyone who's in the program,
19	even for 90 days, versus only accountable for
20	those who are in the program for 11 out of 12
21	months.
22	Those are two extremes. And you

1	go to the 11 out of 12 months enrollment you
2	see that you lose two-thirds of the children
3	in some of the programs.
4	So then is fair to simply hold the
5	program accountable for that few kids that are
6	there with them? And then the 90 days is it
7	simply not sufficient for the patient to
8	navigate the healthcare system.
9	It's ideal, but it's simply not
10	possible to navigate the healthcare system,
11	get the insurance card, make the appointment,
12	get your needed care and then come to the
13	prevention end.
14	So the measure testing has a lot
15	of data where we looked at different types of
16	enrollment periods and we picked the 180 which
17	balances the need to account for enough
18	children while at the same time giving enough
19	time to actually make this a reasonable,
20	realistic measure. So we did that to include.
21	In terms of we're at risk status,
22	again, we have new procedure codes that come

1	through the claim system in terms of recording
2	high, moderate, and low risk, so it's an
3	individual based risk.
4	As Dr. Crall mentioned the
5	traditional method would have been everyone in
6	Medicaid is high risk, but then we don't want
7	that. We heard from many Medicaid directors,
8	that, look, we're in a stage where we really
9	need to target our resources and give the kids
10	that absolutely need this, make sure they get
11	it.
12	And so they were like individual
13	leveled risk assessment is very, very
14	important. So that's why we have the new
15	codes that help the provider capture risks and
16	then transmit it upwards and also we have the
17	backup plan of, you know, looking past
18	history.
19	Enrollment is not required in the
20	past. As long as you have the data you can
21	capture that.
22	MR. CRALL: And if I may, I

1	actually heard a little different, I had a
2	little different take on your question. So in
3	adult Medicaid, clearly, there is what you
4	might you refer to as variation.
5	It's not a required service.
6	States get pressed for fiscal, you know,
7	financial sort of reasons and they drop it,
8	California dropped adult Medicaid, you know,
9	three, four years later we're putting back in
10	some benefits, so that does vary quite a bit.
11	The kids piece is EPSDT. Sealants
12	are clearly sort of outlined as a necessary
13	service, so there's good evidence for it and
14	so, you know, while some States might look to
15	things to like evidence-based guidelines and
16	revisions of evidence-based guidelines which
17	are done maybe every five to ten years and
18	modify their conditions of medical necessity
19	accordingly.
20	By and large you're not seeing
21	sort of any quibbling about whether or not
22	sealants are a covered service in a Medicaid

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1	program.
2	And I can just say in terms of the
3	extent of the covered population in this year,
4	in my State of California, 51 percent of the
5	kids are on Medicaid.
6	So with the ACA and other
7	expansions of States and then entertaining, so
8	by the time you add the commercial piece on
9	that we typically have lagged, coverage has
10	lagged for dental services compared to medical
11	services.
12	We used to say for every child
12	We used to say for every child
12 13	We used to say for every child that lacked medical insurance or health
12 13 14	We used to say for every child that lacked medical insurance or health insurance, as it's generally referred to,
12 13 14 15	We used to say for every child that lacked medical insurance or health insurance, as it's generally referred to, there were 2.6 kids who lacked dental
12 13 14 15 16	We used to say for every child that lacked medical insurance or health insurance, as it's generally referred to, there were 2.6 kids who lacked dental insurance.
12 13 14 15 16 17	We used to say for every child that lacked medical insurance or health insurance, as it's generally referred to, there were 2.6 kids who lacked dental insurance. But that gap is being closed
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	We used to say for every child that lacked medical insurance or health insurance, as it's generally referred to, there were 2.6 kids who lacked dental insurance. But that gap is being closed through a variety of recent legislation and
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	We used to say for every child that lacked medical insurance or health insurance, as it's generally referred to, there were 2.6 kids who lacked dental insurance. But that gap is being closed through a variety of recent legislation and State actions and changes in eligibility, so
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	We used to say for every child that lacked medical insurance or health insurance, as it's generally referred to, there were 2.6 kids who lacked dental insurance. But that gap is being closed through a variety of recent legislation and State actions and changes in eligibility, so it's a shrinking population. We capture the

1	piece that comes along on top of that.
2	But there's still a segment of
3	kids who are not eligible for any coverage,
4	that's a challenge regardless of what measure
5	you're trying to implement I think.
6	MS. SAMPSEL: Yes, before we do
7	anymore questions diving further down in the
8	criteria I want to bring everybody back to the
9	evidence section and Criterion 1.
10	And what we're going to start
11	doing and we'll ask Kaitlynn to help us with
12	a dry run is go ahead and go back to the
13	evidence section and do the initial vote on
14	number one importance to measure and report.
15	But before we do that, you know,
16	again, any questions, comments, anything else
17	anybody wanted clarified on the impact of this
18	measure?
19	MS. MUNTHALI: And I just want to
20	add that the criterion and sub-criteria within
21	importance to measure and report are must
22	pass, and so if you have any points of

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1	clarification for DQA I would recommend that
2	you ask them now.
3	MS. LUCK: Hi. I was wondering if
4	you could walk us through the
5	operationalization of the elevated risk factor
6	in the numerator and denominator? How is that
7	operationalized in measuring this measure?
8	Thank you.
9	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So, again, the
10	way that it's operationalized is there are
11	three CDT codes, the procedure codes. Since
12	the dental system does not report diagnostic
13	coding we sort of went a roundabout way to get
14	CDT codes in place to capture risks.
15	So 0601, 0602, 0603, are low,
16	medium, and high.
17	MR. CRALL: Caries risk.
18	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Caries risk.
19	MR. CRALL: The designation of
20	caries risk on the part of the clinician.
21	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Caries risk.
22	Right. It's a descriptor of risk assessment

1	performed, finding of low risk, risk
2	assessment performed, finding of moderate
3	risk, risk assessment performed, finding of
4	high risk.
5	So when you have the two codes of
6	02 and 03 reported that is flagged as yes,
7	this is a person that's moderate or high and
8	should become part of this measure.
9	Now in cases where you don't have
10	the risk, when the systems are still gearing
11	up towards that risk assessment then we have
12	this place where that you can look back for
13	three years and see whether the child has
14	received restorations and all those, I know we
15	only have the codes listed and those codes are
16	simply restoration codes and pulp therapy
17	codes.
18	So if you have any of those
19	treatments done they are simply indicative
20	that you've had the disease and that is in any
21	amount of literature you see past history is
22	the most important valid predictor of future

1	disease.
2	So you want to be able to prevent.
3	So in cases that you've had any kind of
4	restorations then you would pick up the case
5	as well.
6	MR. CRALL: And I would just add
7	that one of the benefits of having Jill and
8	her team involved in the testing of these
9	measures is that we were actually able and we
10	put them through many iterations of well, what
11	if we use this set of codes versus what if we
12	use that set codes?
13	And so we could actually look and
14	see what the results were across different
15	States and different covered populations
16	within those States, whether or not you, you
17	know, the codes, and I apologize that those
18	explanations for those current codes aren't in
19	there because everybody, those numbers unless
20	you live in that world, but as Krishna said
21	they were indicative that the child had
22	already had some restorative care or treatment

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1	for the, what we call the pulp, the inner
2	portion of the tooth where the nerves and the
3	blood vessels are.
4	And we took our guide to some
5	degree in that from members of our Measures,
6	Development, and Maintenance Committee,
7	several of whom basically have a background or
8	experience working with plans, dental plans,
9	and one in particular has had experience
10	working in the largest benefit plan for kids
11	that are covered in Medicaid.
12	So, you know, they in fact use
13	similar types of procedures but we did the
14	testing again through the Institute of Child
15	Health Policy on those two State data sets to
16	see what the results would be.
17	And one last point that David
18	brought up is that, and he's right, you know.
19	If we had our way we would have every child's
20	teeth sealed, you know, early before they got
21	decay early on.
22	The problem you encounter in

1	trying to develop a measure to capture it is
2	that without the, you know, longitudinal
3	history of the child from birth onwards you
4	may not be able to tell even which teeth are
5	yet unsealed and therefore candidates for
6	sealant versus not.
7	But we, and Krishna will probably
8	have a better grasp on the details of this,
9	but even in our testing we found that if we
10	look and a child only had one sealant there's
11	still a performance gap around that.
12	So it won't be the perfect
13	measure, it won't be the end all measure, but
14	we think it's a good place to start.
15	MS. SAMPSEL: Arjun, did you have
16	a question?
17	MR. VENKATESH: I think they're
18	more related in measureabilities, that would
19	be later, right?
20	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, thank you.
21	MR. BAER: Question? Sorry. Yes,
22	question on the three risk codes. Is there a

1	validated screening tool?
2	MR. CRALL: I would say that the
3	evidence for the validation of that is not
4	robust simply because there are new codes that
5	are being implemented.
6	The description suggests the, or
7	the descriptor on the CDC code would point to
8	the use of code, excuse me, risk assessment
9	tools such as one that's called CAMBRA, which
10	is Caries Management by Risk Assessment, been
11	developed out of the University of California,
12	San Francisco, and widely used more on the
13	Western part of the Country.
14	The American Academy of Pediatric
15	Dentistry has a tool, the ADA has a tool, the
16	evidence on the validation sort of part of
17	those is not robust because it's basically a
18	new phenomenon.
19	It really came almost online as we
20	were developing these measures and that's why
21	we incorporated them into the approach for
22	assessing risk.

1	MS. ASOMUGHA: We can we still ask
2	questions about measure sets? Ask questions
3	about measure sets or not?
4	MS. SAMPSEL: We're going to
5	MS. ASOMUGHA: Okay.
6	MS. SAMPSEL: Let's focus on
7	importance right now so we can start moving
8	towards the vote. Any other questions on
9	importance? Okay, Kaitlynn?
10	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. Yes,
11	so just to vote make sure that your clicker is
12	pointing toward the vote snap, towards me.
13	And we're actually going to go
14	ahead and read off the questions, so high
15	impact is addressing a specific National
16	health goal, priority, or data demonstrated,
17	a high impact aspect of healthcare, so the
18	numbers affected, resource use, and the
19	severity in consequences.
20	So if you agree that the measure
21	has a high impact please press one, if you
22	think it's moderate press two, if it's low

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1
      then press three, and four for insufficient
 2
      evidence.
 3
                  The slides in the front are the
 4
      voting slides so that has the details on what
 5
     you're voting on.
 6
                  MS. SAMPSEL: Okay.
                                       Has everyone
 7
      voted?
 8
                  (Off microphone discussion)
 9
                  MS. SAMPSEL: Okay.
                                       Now I think
10
      everybody can vote.
11
                  MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR:
                                       How many
12
      people are we waiting -- Good.
13
                  MR. FRANCE: Just to clarify how
14
      these work, push the button once that's it, or
15
      do you hit the send button at the bottom after
      you do it?
16
17
                  MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: No, you don't
      need to hit send, just press your button.
18
19
     We're trying to get to 21 votes.
20
                  MS. SAMPSEL: Yes, we're at 21.
21
                  MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR:
                                       Okay.
22
                  MS. MUNTHALI: And, Kaitlynn, can
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1	you just clarify, is this the test or is the
2	actual vote on the measure?
3	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: This is the
4	actual vote.
5	MS. MUNTHALI: Okay.
6	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: But we can
7	redo it.
8	MS. MUNTHALI: No, it looks like
9	everybody's device is working.
10	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. Okay,
11	so for
12	MS. MUNTHALI: So just to clarify
13	that means we'll move over to 1(b)?
14	MS. SAMPSEL: Yes.
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Yes. Well we
16	are setting it off.
17	MS. SAMPSEL: Wait, we have to
18	announce the vote for 1(a).
19	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: So for 1(a)
20	we have 15 voted for high, 5 voted for
21	moderate, and 1 voted for low.
22	MS. NISHIMI: I just want to

1	clarify for the committee why we have to do
2	all this announcing, because there is a
3	transcript and people on the phone also can't
4	see, obviously, the screen, so that's why you
5	might think it's a little bit cumbersome, but
6	there's a reason we're doing it.
7	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: So 1(c) is
8	for evidence for measures of health outcome,
9	is there a rationale/causal path that supports
10	the relationship of the health outcome, do
11	processes or structures appear? One for yes,
12	two for no. Okay, and
13	MR. KROL: Was 1(a) and 1(b)
14	combined? We skipped 1(b)?
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: No. So the
16	order it goes in is we're looking at high
17	impact and then we're looking at evidence and
18	then we're looking at performance gap.
19	MS. KHAN: Okay, so
20	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: And it's
21	actually, it's a 1(c) evidence for a process
22	measure, so it's the next. I'm sorry.

1	MS. KHAN: Yes, okay.
2	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: So this is
3	1(c) evidence structure process, intermediate
4	outcome. Based on the information submitted
5	quantity and quality and consistency of body
6	of evidence are met as follows, consistency,
7	moderate or high, quantity and quality,
8	moderate or high, or low with special
9	circumstances.
10	One is yes, two is no, evidence
11	does not meet guidance, three is no,
12	insufficient information submitted. So I'm
13	going to click the timer for 60 seconds.
14	(Pause)
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Still waiting
16	for one more.
17	(Pause)
18	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. So for
19	1(c) we had 21 votes for yes.
20	(Pause)
21	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Oh, 20.
22	Okay, so 1(b), importance to measure and

1 report. 1(b), performance gap, data demonstrated considerable variation or overall 2 3 less than optimal performance across providers 4 and/or population groups. One is high, two is moderate, 5 three is low, four is insufficient evidence. 6 7 (Pause) MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: I think we're 8 9 still waiting for one vote. 10 (Pause) 11 MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: If you all 12 could just press it one more time, please. 13 Okay, great, there we go. Okay. Okay, so we 14 had 12 for high, eight for moderate and one 15 for low. MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. So before we 16 17 move into this next area of voting this would be any questions on the specifications 18 19 specifically. Go ahead. 20 MR. VENKATESH: So I had I quess a 21 series of questions around the validity of a 22 claims-based measure and then another question

1	around the level of analysis, which may be
2	more of a question for NQF.
3	Around the claims-based measure I
4	think a little education for me may even help,
5	which is that are these measures all assigned
6	by the qualified provider?
7	And then when the claim, when it's
8	coded are these codes that you guys eluded to
9	the three codes, these CDT codes, do those
10	function like g codes do for physicians where
11	they're optional or are they required in the
12	coding of each claim?
13	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Okay. I'm going
14	to try to answer, but I'm going to actually
15	request Dr. Inge to chime in as well. He
16	might have a better sense of this.
17	So the coding is by, so the first
18	questions was the claims coming in by
19	provider. So there are different ways in
20	which the program, so standalone dental plans
21	as we showed in the data, 99 percent are just
22	dental, and we do have a footnote and the user

1	guide simply states that standalone dental
2	plans ignore this whole provider filter.
3	You don't even need it. Simply,
4	all your claims process it. It's only when
5	you're using this measure at the program level
6	that this whole provider thing and the filter
7	comes into play.
8	And in those cases many programs
9	maintain separate filing systems, so you don't
10	have to even use the logic, they can use the
11	filing system and say okay, here are all the
12	dental services and it goes that way.
13	So it really depends, and we have
14	more information in the user guide how to
15	apply that and when to apply that. In terms
16	of whether the codes itself are required or
17	not required, we really want to, part of the
18	quality improvement effort through this
19	process is not simply to improve the sealant
20	rates, but also to move this concept of risk
21	based care into the community.
22	And that's really, really

1	important to us. And so measuring this at the
2	program level and the plan level hopefully the
3	plans will start requiring this. We are still
4	working to set frequencies and how often it
5	should be done.
6	So this is all hopefully will
7	evolve and use of implementation of this
8	measure will actually push the system in this
9	direction.
10	MR. CRALL: So I would just say I
11	think, you know, the short answer to this is
12	these are new codes and the ability to require
13	that that field be filled out or not may vary
14	by program, but at the current time I would
15	suspect that the vast majority, it's an
16	optional entry not a required entry but Dr.
17	Inge or other, you know, may have more insight
18	in that.
19	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: And if I can
20	just take a moment to add on, and that's why
21	we have the other filter of the past history.
22	MR. INGE: So in regards to the

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1	codes being required, they are required for
2	reimbursement. So that if there's any program
3	in which a dentist or any other healthcare
4	provider wishes to be reimbursed for those
5	services then it will be required.
6	It's not optional. There were
7	some codes previously in the CDT that were
8	supposed to be applied only at moderate at
9	high risk, but we had no risk codes to
10	associate with them, and so these codes help
11	to add to that and allow us to reimburse for
12	codes based upon risk that we now have risk
13	codes.
14	So there is not an optional use of
15	those codes. Whenever they are used it's for
16	a specific purpose of defining the risk
17	category of the patient.
18	MR. CRALL: So if I could just
19	clarify my comment on optional. I meant that
20	if a clinician were to bill for a sealant I
21	think it's, in most plans today, it's optional
22	whether or not they include the risk, that's

1	what I meant.
2	So what Ron is I think eluding to
3	is that if a provider, and if any plan
4	provider that asks for reimbursement and for
5	- the assessment, obviously the provider would
6	have to enter a code to register that they
7	performed the service and then if there was
8	reimbursement they would be compensated.
9	MR. VENKATESH: So just help me
10	kind of summarize that for the group in
11	understanding. Does that mean that even
12	though it is technically optional we would
13	still be capturing, the denominator would
	capture the universe of sealant being used?
15	MR. CRALL: I think, you will
16	capture the sealants being used. What will
10	I'm sure start slowly and then depending upon
18	whatever incentives might be built into the
19	reimbursement side of things or performance or
20	any other sort of motivation for a clinician
20	to enter the risk code on top of that sealant
21	code then the capturing of the risk is
44	code chen the capturing of the fisk is

1	probably low now because of the newness of the
2	measures and it will increase over time.
3	But the capturing of the sealant
4	itself I think is basically going to occur as,
5	you know, regardless.
6	MR. VENKATESH: Okay. So then
7	would it be safe then to say that initially in
8	the use of this measure that the denominator
9	and the population being measured is going to
10	be largely those that have a prior history as
11	they capture as opposed to the risk code?
12	MR. CRALL: I would think that it
13	would be a fair assumption and, again, Jill,
13 14	would be a fair assumption and, again, Jill, you know, did the testing on the data that
14	you know, did the testing on the data that
14 15	you know, did the testing on the data that existed within those States and we have
14 15 16	you know, did the testing on the data that existed within those States and we have results form that, so that, clearly, that's
14 15 16 17	you know, did the testing on the data that existed within those States and we have results form that, so that, clearly, that's the mechanism that prior to the introduction
14 15 16 17 18	you know, did the testing on the data that existed within those States and we have results form that, so that, clearly, that's the mechanism that prior to the introduction of these risk assessment codes you had to
14 15 16 17 18 19	you know, did the testing on the data that existed within those States and we have results form that, so that, clearly, that's the mechanism that prior to the introduction of these risk assessment codes you had to develop some sort of a, you know, you could
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	you know, did the testing on the data that existed within those States and we have results form that, so that, clearly, that's the mechanism that prior to the introduction of these risk assessment codes you had to develop some sort of a, you know, you could call it a proxy measure of risk or some sort

1	the absence of a diagnostic code that enters
2	it.
3	So, yes, I would think certainly
4	early on that the majority of them are going
5	to be captured that way.
6	MR. VENKATESH: All right. Last
7	question I promise related to that. So then
8	do you guys have any validation data that
9	suggests that coding is consistent between
10	providers? That risk assessment is validly
11	represented by the administrative code?
12	MR. CRALL: The data we have for,
13	on the actual use of those three codes would
14	be meager at this point in time because those
15	codes are just being introduced, you know,
16	into the systems.
17	What we do have are data that
18	demonstrate that using the prior experience
19	and that set of codes that David eluded to
20	actually captures information and we have that
21	at the program level and we have it for plans.
22	And that's really been the

1	essential focus of the DQA up to this point in
2	its history. We haven't moved on to that
3	provider level piece yet.
4	MR. INGE: Just a comment.
5	Request and stimulated thought from me, in
6	that with this measure it should require that
7	the risk assessment code accompany the sealant
8	code because currently we have sealants being
9	applied to very low risk populations and that
10	could distort the numbers.
11	So with this measure and the
12	subsequent measure having the risk assessment
13	code be required to accompany the sealant code
14	I think would give us a better view of its
15	effectiveness.
16	MR. FRANCE: I guess I would just
17	maybe disagree and say that there's also the
18	bias that, as a dentist I might say, I must
19	code risk with each sealant out of pride in
20	order to be paid for it.
21	And so over time 98 percent of
22	high risk are receiving sealants and so I'm

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1	curious about your thoughts about how that
2	distortion of the data over time might make it
3	difficult for you to use it as a performance
4	improvement metric when billing and
5	performance might be very strongly linked.
6	MR. CRALL: Well I, you know, to
7	your point, I think that it wouldn't be the
8	first case in which that there were some sort
9	of suggestion that that might be happening,
10	right.
11	And so that's the ongoing
12	challenge in terms of designing the program or
13	the benefit plan, or the benefit structure
14	within the program to find a way whereby we
15	could actually demonstrate that the kids who
16	are designated as high risk actually are at
17	high risk.
18	There will be some subjectivity in
19	this. This is not, you know, the measurements
20	that you typically have for diabetes where you
21	have a biological marker where you can read
22	out a number on a scale.

1	It's a multi-factorial chronic
2	disease where you have a variety, you have
3	clinical factors, you have other types of
4	factors that come into play in the assessment
5	of risk.
6	It is not physics, it's healthcare
7	for humans and therefore there's going to be
8	some variation in terms of how providers code
9	it. To Ron's comment, again, even within low
10	risk populations there may be high risk
11	individuals.
10	
12	Well off kids still get caries.
12	Well off kids still get caries. So the question about, you know, would you
13	So the question about, you know, would you
13 14	So the question about, you know, would you actually capture risk and what's the validity
13 14 15	So the question about, you know, would you actually capture risk and what's the validity of that in a high risk population is, I would
13 14 15 16	So the question about, you know, would you actually capture risk and what's the validity of that in a high risk population is, I would say, a to be determined.
13 14 15 16 17	So the question about, you know, would you actually capture risk and what's the validity of that in a high risk population is, I would say, a to be determined. But it will come about, I believe
13 14 15 16 17 18	So the question about, you know, would you actually capture risk and what's the validity of that in a high risk population is, I would say, a to be determined. But it will come about, I believe our job is to design the measure as best we
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	So the question about, you know, would you actually capture risk and what's the validity of that in a high risk population is, I would say, a to be determined. But it will come about, I believe our job is to design the measure as best we can under the available data and the
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	So the question about, you know, would you actually capture risk and what's the validity of that in a high risk population is, I would say, a to be determined. But it will come about, I believe our job is to design the measure as best we can under the available data and the circumstances. After that it's the

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1	going to determine how the numbers go.
2	But your point I think is clearly
3	a valid one and, you know, I think as in many
4	other areas of health services research there
5	may be a few people who seriously try to game
6	a system.
7	I think the vast majority probably
8	try to use the codes if they're educated will
9	in a consistent way, but it's going to be that
10	interaction of benefit design reimbursement
11	and clinical practice that's going to
12	ultimately determine what the performance is.
13	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: I would like to
14	add one thing to the previous comment.
15	MS. SAMPSEL: Oh, sure, go ahead.
16	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So one thing to
17	point out is for the commercial sector it's
18	not really dental insurance, it is really a
19	dental benefit.
20	There is an annual maximum and
21	after that the plan does not pay. Typically
22	benefit plans pay 100 percent for

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1	preventative, but then they come down to 80 or
2	even 50 percent for restoratives and there's
2	even 50 percent for restoratives and there's
3	a lot of out of pocket expense for the
4	patient.
5	So there's a lot going on on the
6	benefit side versus Medicaid. And in terms of
7	requiring these codes obviously as measure
8	developers and DQA we cannot mandate that.
9	It's something that the plans and payers
10	programs have to do.
11	What would skew the data is if the
12	benefit design at the population level simply
13	limits risk and does not allow that provider
14	judgement to come through to actually get at
15	the individual risk.
16	That's not happening today and
17	hopefully we will have mechanisms to capture
18	individual risk from the provider level
19	upwards to influence what gets treated.
20	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. If no other
21	questions we'll move Oh, sorry. Ron, go
22	ahead.

1	MR. BIALEK: I may have missed
2	this. I was trying to read through the
3	document and understand it a little bit
4	better.
5	The risk assessment, if the child
6	never accesses the system is the child in the
7	data as at risk or no? So, it's no, okay.
8	So then the question if those who
9	never access the system are excluded from the
10	measure then aren't you potentially masking
11	the potential increase disparities, sort of
12	cherry pick those who access the system, apply
13	sealants, and those who never access who could
14	be the majority within the Medicaid Program or
15	the CHIP Program are never seen and never had
16	sealants applied?
17	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So if I can
18	respond to that first. It's like we really
19	believe that there is no one magic measure and
20	one magic score.
21	There is a picture that needs to
22	built and there are many puzzles to that

1	picture. So that's why when you saw the list
2	of measures we developed it's more did you get
3	the patient linked to care?
4	Was the patient diagnosed? Was
5	the patient prevented? Was the patient
6	treated? And then did you get that patient
7	healthy? So you need to have that framework
8	and a set of measures that follows the patient
9	through the healthcare delivery system in
10	order to see whether, you know, you improved
11	your population health.
12	So this is one piece of the
13	puzzle. We have the oral evaluation and the
14	utilization that target exactly what you said,
15	did we get the people into the system?
16	So we really want to see that
17	measure go up and as that measure goes up this
18	is sort of okay, now, did we get the
19	prevention done?
20	So there are many pieces to this
21	that, you know, there's no one magic measure
22	and that comment will hopefully be addressed

1	through another measure.
2	MR. CRALL: Yes, and I would just
3	add, you know, so if we were trying to use
4	this measure as an indicator of the
5	epidemiology of the disease in these molars
6	then I think there might be some very serious
7	concerns.
8	But if we're dealing with it
9	within a context of accountability, so a
10	Medicaid Program basically has a set of
11	enrolled individuals, they have a certain set
12	of requirements that flow from that, States
13	have used a variety of ways to try to modify
14	utilization based on those responsibilities.
15	They'll contract with plans. They
16	may use incentives. I mean CMS has an oral
17	health initiative right now that is basically
18	asking all the States to increase the number
19	of kids who get sealants by 10 percentage
20	points above where there are now.
21	So, you know, States that
22	administer their own programs will develop

1	their own incentives for doing that. States
2	that contract out with plans will try to
3	provide, you know, some other mechanism so
4	that the plans will be able to differentiate
5	themselves and to demonstrate increases in
6	performance.
7	But that's where the
8	accountability piece lies and where it stops.
9	It's not meant to be an epidemiological
10	indicator, it's meant to be something that
11	helps you demonstrate whether or not there was
12	a change in performance at the program or plan
13	level.
14	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: And one more
15	thing is, as the program administrator looks
16	at the score and says okay, why am I doing so
17	badly?
18	They'll go and look at am I not
19	getting the kids into the chair, or the kids
20	that are coming into the chair are not getting
21	the service.
22	So there's more than access and
1	process components to the measures score when
----	--
2	the denominator is all enrollees, so hopefully
3	we can dig into the data that way.
4	The original DQA measures have
5	something called Denominator 1 and Denominator
6	2 where Denominator 1 is all enrollees and
7	Denominator 2 is utilizers.
8	And when you see the differential
9	you can see sometimes services are 90 percent
10	at the process level, so those who come to the
11	chair get it, but it's an access problem. So
12	people need to dig into the data to figure out
13	why it is.
14	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. With no other
15	questions we'll turn it over to Kaitlynn and
16	just to go through the process one more time,
17	Kaitlynn's going to read the criterion that
18	we're voting on, provide the options for
19	answers and which buttons you would need to
20	push.
21	We will direct our buttons towards
22	Kaitlynn as well as she will then click on

1	that little thing in the right hand corner of
2	the front screen that starts the timer and we
3	just all have one minute to get our vote to
4	Kaitlynn. So with that, Kaitlynn.
5	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. So
6	2(a), reliability including 2(a)(1), precise
7	specifications and 2(a)(2), testing
8	appropriate methods and scope with adequate
9	results.
10	For high press button one, for
11	moderate press button two, for low press
12	button three, for insufficient evidence press
13	button four, and time begins now.
14	(Pause)
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. So we
16	now have all 21 votes and voting will close
17	now. Okay, we had three votes for high, 12
18	votes for moderate, one vote for low, and five
19	votes for insufficient.
20	MS. SAMPSEL: All right, can we
21	hold on a second? Emilio, you had a question?
22	MR. CARILLO: Can we review the

1	algorithm for insufficient in terms of
2	exempted, not exempted?
3	MS. KHAN: Sure. Everyone has a
4	copy at their desk.
5	MR. CARILLO: Because whether
6	people vote for that or not depends on
7	understanding the full intent of that.
8	MS. KHAN: Sure. So we're looking
9	at reliability right now. The algorithm is
10	the third page, it says 15 on the bottom. So
11	when we want to rate something inefficient
12	we're actually, if you start at, let's see,
13	well I guess maybe Elisa you should, you're
14	the methods person.
15	MS. MUNTHALI: You guess. Okay,
16	so does everyone have the algorithm in front
17	of them?
18	(Multiples yeses)
19	MS. MUNTHALI: Okay. So we, let's
20	just start from the beginning. I think that
21	would be a lot easier. Are the submitted
22	specifications precise and ambiguous and

1	complete so that they can be consistently
2	implemented?
3	And if yes we would go to number
4	two, which is the second blue box on the
5	algorithm. And then here it's asking whether
6	the empirical reliabilities tested conducting
7	using the statistical test with the measure as
8	specified.
9	If we say no then we would go
10	towards the right and then it would ask us was
11	empirical validity testing of patient-level
12	data conducted? If we say no then we would
13	rate the measure at this point as
14	insufficient.
15	If we say yes we'd use the ratings
16	for a validity testing for our patient-level
17	data elements, and that would be on the next
18	page, which is Page 16.
19	So I don't know, for those who
20	voted insufficient, and, Emilio, are there any
21	specific questions that you had? Would you
22	like us to go further down the algorithm?

1	MR. CARILLO: No. Basically when
2	there is insufficient evidence, but there are
3	other rationale, other thinking for the
4	committee that might exempt the sufficient
5	MS. MUNTHALI: Oh, so for like
6	evidence?
7	MR. CARILLO: Right.
8	MS. MUNTHALI: That's more
9	specific to the evidence sub-criterion, and so
10	for that, what Emilio is talking about, if you
11	go to the first page, which is importance to
12	measure and report and the sub-criterion of
13	evidence, if in the submission we did not find
14	sufficient evidence the committee can apply an
15	exception rule knowing that there's evidence
16	to support the measure.
17	It's not quite the same for
18	reliability and validity when we're assessing
19	it at the data element or measure score level.
20	And so I think that's what you were trying to
21	see if we can kind of apply an exception to
22	this

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1	MR. CARILLO: Yes. Right.
2	MS. MUNTHALI: knowing that you
3	may not feel that it meets all of these
4	criterion based on the guidelines.
5	MR. CARILLO: Correct.
6	MS. MUNTHALI: Okay. Are there
7	any other questions or concerns before we move
8	on. By the vote the measure has passed
9	reliability and now we'll be talking about
10	validity.
11	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. So
12	validity, including 2(b), specifications
13	consistent with evidence, 2(b)(2), testing,
14	appropriate method and scope with adequate
15	results and threats, 2(b)(3), exclusions,
16	2(b)(4) risk adjustment, stratification,
17	2(b)(5), meaningful differences, 2(b)(6),
18	comparability, data sources.
19	One is high, two is moderate,
20	three is low, four is insufficient, and voting
21	will begin now.
22	(Pause)
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1	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: We're still
2	waiting for three votes. Okay, now two votes.
3	And one more vote. Okay, we're still waiting
4	for one vote. Okay, so all votes are in and
5	voting is now closed.
6	Okay. For high we had one vote,
7	for moderate we had 14 votes, for low we had
8	four votes, and for insufficient evidence
9	there were two votes.
10	MS. CHIANG: So I struggled with
11	this one because there were, it wasn't
12	entirely clear to me how we were supposed to
13	vote given that there was so many different
14	criteria.
15	So there's some that I agreed with
16	that had higher level and others that were
17	lower level, so it was very hard for me to
18	then put an aggregate response. I don't if
19	others
20	MS. MUNTHALI: Yes, and that's
21	somewhat the difficulty of doing this exercise
22	is that we have this criterion, it's been

1	vetted, it's scientific, but then there is a
2	judgement call, of course.
3	That we're asking many of you
4	around the table with your different
5	perspectives to weigh in and so it's that
6	balance that we're trying to consider with the
7	voting on the evaluation criterion and sub-
8	criterion.
9	MR. VENKATESH: But I think what
10	you're eluding to is that it was hard to
11	evaluate 2(a), like make a composite score of
12	2(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), at the same time
13	when you may have high for (a) and (b) or low
14	for (c) and something like that.
15	MS. CHIANG: And that's what I was
16	trying to say.
17	MS. MUNTHALI: And then coming up
18	with like a binary decision point, yes.
19	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, if no other
20	questions we'll go ahead and move into
21	Criterion 3, which is feasibility and before
22	we go to vote were there any other questions

1	or comments, considerations, from the
2	committee? Okay, Kaitlynn, go ahead.
3	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay.
4	Usability, meaningful, understandable, and
5	useful for public reporting and
6	accountability, 3(b), meaningful,
7	understandable, and useful for quality
8	improvement.
9	One is high, two is moderate,
10	three is low, and four is insufficient
11	information, and voting will begin now.
12	MR. SPANGLER: Wait. I have a
13	question real quick.
14	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Oh, you had a
15	question.
16	MR. SPANGLER: I thought three was
17	feasibility and four was usability?
18	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: You are
19	correct, and actually it's use and usability
20	for four. We've just noted that these are the
21	old criterion slides that were implemented a
22	couple of years ago and so we probably should

1	take a break to correct it, so we'll do so.
2	If we can take
3	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay.
4	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: If we could
5	ask the chairs for about five minutes?
6	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. Everybody,
7	let's take a break.
8	(Whereupon, the foregoing matter
9	went off the record at 11:04 a.m. and went
10	back on the record at 11:13 a.m.)
11	MS. SAMPSEL: So we think things
12	have been, or we know things have been
13	readjusted and now the votes will now align
14	with the review forms that we all worked on.
15	And so we'll pick up with
16	feasibility here and just wanted to start
17	again with the discussion about feasibility
18	and since this was one of the measures that I
19	reviewed, you know, I think in the general
20	terms of is the measure feasible for reporting
21	by the intended audience of reporting, which
22	would be health plans and integrated delivery

1	systems, this measure does seem to meet all
2	feasibility criteria.
3	It seems that some of the
4	discussions that happened on the workgroup
5	were more about can you capture the codes and
6	could a plan capture a code because they are
7	dependant on claims and, especially with the
8	new codes on the risk assessment.
9	So with that I will go ahead and
10	open up for any other additional questions or
11	comments that folks had about feasibility of
12	this measure before we go to vote on
13	feasibility.
14	(Pause)
15	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, go ahead,
16	Kaitlynn.
17	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. For
18	feasibility 3(a), data generated during care,
19	3(b), electronic sources, and 3(c), data
20	collection can be implemented, eMeasure,
21	feasibility, assessment of data elements and
22	logic.

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1	One is high, two is moderate,
2	three is low, and four is insufficient, and
3	voting begins now.
4	(Pause)
5	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay, we're
6	still waiting on two votes and there's about
7	30 seconds left. Okay, we're still waiting on
8	one vote and there's 20 seconds left. Still
9	waiting on one more vote. Okay, we have all
10	of our votes and voting closes now.
11	Okay, for high there were 14
12	votes, for moderate there were six votes, for
13	low there was one vote.
14	MS. SAMPSEL: Jane?
15	MS. CHIANG: Is abstaining from a
16	vote an option?
17	MS. SAMPSEL: No.
18	MS. MUNTHALI: So the only reason
19	that we would, you know, say that someone
20	could abstain is if they were involved in
21	measure development.
22	We really value everyone's

1	perspective, so perhaps you can, if you'd like
2	to say the reasons why you're uncomfortable
3	with the criteria and how this measure meets
4	it or does not we can note it for our public
5	record and the report.
6	MR. FRANCE: Just a process
7	comment. I find it a little distracting when
8	I'm trying to decide to hear "still two votes,
9	still one vote, 20 seconds."
10	I'd prefer if it were quiet when
11	I'm voting personally and then at the moment
12	that everybody's done we're done rather than
13	the commentary about how many votes are left.
14	MS. MUNTHALI: Okay, thank you.
15	That's noted, Kaitlynn.
16	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. We'll now
17	move onto usability and use of this measure,
18	and prior to going to vote are there any other
19	comments or questions?
20	You know, during the workgroup
21	discussion and comments received prior to the
22	meeting there really weren't any comments on

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1	this part of it, but this is the criterion
2	regarding extent to which potential audiences
3	are using or could use performance results for
4	both accountability and performance
5	improvement.
6	And I know the DQA talked about
7	that a little bit to address some other
8	questions. So any other questions or comments
9	regarding usability? Go ahead, Kaitlynn.
10	Oops, sorry. David?
11	MR. KROL: So this one for 4(b)
12	for the progress demonstrated as far as, I
13	don't know, this is the one where there may be
14	a combination of some, the question that came
15	up earlier about (a), (b), (c) trying to find
16	out how you weigh each of those to get to your
17	final number.
18	Because this is so new in Texas
19	and maybe Connecticut, I'm not sure that
20	they've gotten to the point where they're
21	showing if it's having sufficient evidence to
22	see if progress has been demonstrated on

1	improvement yet.
2	So, for instance, in my, I'm not
3	sure how I'll factor in an insufficient for
4	4(b) with other numbers for the others. I
5	don't want to give a, you know, does one
6	insufficient of those three make the whole
7	thing insufficient? I have some challenge on
8	that one, 4.
9	MS. KHAN: So I would note that as
10	part of 4(b) if it's a new measure we're not
11	really looking for if there's been progress
12	demonstrated, but if the rationale exists.
13	So there are some nuances for
14	maintenance measures versus the new measures
15	and we've tried to note them in the voting
16	slides, but essentially we just want to make
17	sure that it's, there's a credible rationale
18	for demonstrating improvement as part of 4(b),
19	yes.
20	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, Kaitlynn.
21	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. So for
22	usability and use, 4(a), accountability,

1	transparency, use and accountability within
2	three years, public reporting within six
3	years, or if new, credible plan, and 4(b),
4	improvement, progress demonstrated, if new
5	credible rationale, and 4(c), benefits
6	outweigh evidence of unintended negative
7	consequences to patients and/or populations.
8	One is high, two is moderate,
9	three is low, four is insufficient, and voting
10	begins now.
11	(Pause)
12	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. We now
13	have 21 votes and voting will end. For high
14	there were nine votes, for moderate there were
15	11 votes, for low there was zero votes, for
16	insufficient information there was one vote.
17	MR. CARILLO: Just a question.
18	For me, I don't if anybody else, it's kind of
19	hard to see the small print on that screen.
20	I wonder whether they can be substituted for
21	this display here?
22	MS. KHAN: Unfortunately

1 MR. CARILLO: For displaying --2 You can't. 3 MS. KHAN: -- the software that we 4 use for voting can only be displayed on that 5 laptop. 6 MR. CARILLO: I see. 7 MS. KHAN: And so that's why, but 8 9 MR. CARILLO: All right, I'll move 10 up if I have to. 11 MS. KHAN: Okay. 12 Thank you. MR. CARILLO: 13 MS. SAMPSEL: So we can move onto 14 the overall vote for endorsement. 15 MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. So does the measure meet NQF criteria for 16 17 endorsement? Note, this may not yet be a 18 recommendation for endorsement. Final 19 recommendation for endorsement may depend on 20 assessment of any related and competing 21 measures. 22 One is yes, two is no. Voting

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1	begins now.
2	(Pause)
3	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay, we now
4	have all of our votes and voting will close.
5	So for the recommendation of the measure there
6	were 18 votes for yes and three votes for no.
7	So the measure will pass recommendation.
8	MS. MUNTHALI: And just for our
9	transcript and our recording, the measures
10	2508, Prevention of Dental Sealants for 6 to
11	9 Year Old Children at Elevated Caries Risk.
12	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. So as, you
13	know, both Helen and Elisa and I announced
14	earlier this morning, the first measure's
15	always the hardest one and, you know, we kind
16	of go through some quirks, we learn about the
17	process, and we learn about working together
18	for the first one.
19	And we'll probably continue to do
20	that through the rest of the measures, but
21	we'll go ahead and move on to 2509 and before
22	doing so I want to do a couple things.

1	One, we're going to switch the
2	process a little bit and have the discussants
3	go through each criterion one at a time so we
4	don't forget anything from, you know, if we go
5	through it all together then we're at jeopardy
6	of forgetting some of those conversations by
7	the time that we vote.
8	So we'll go through Criterion 1,
9	we'll go through and vote, go through
10	Criterion 2, vote, go through Criterion 3 and
11	vote.
12	You know, appreciate the concern
13	about announcing of the votes, but what we'll
14	ask Kaitlynn to do is at 45 seconds in if she
15	still doesn't have all 21 just notify folks
16	because we do need to get all of the votes in
17	within that 60 seconds or we'll have to all
18	re-vote and we want to avoid that as well.
19	Anything other process wise we
20	want to
21	MS. MUNTHALI: No, that's it.
22	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, so with that,

1	oh, John?
2	MR. AUERBACH: You know, I hope
3	this isn't inappropriate, but for those of us
4	who are new I wonder if we could take five
5	minutes just to have a discussion about
6	process or just ask questions, or about the
7	appropriateness of, you know, participating in
8	particular ways?
9	MS. SAMPSEL: Sure.
10	MR. AUERBACH: There's a cluster
11	of us that are new down this end.
12	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay.
13	MR. AUERBACH: And I just think it
14	would be helpful to know certain things that
15	I think maybe the more experienced folks know.
16	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, ask away.
17	MR. AUERBACH: Well I'll start,
18	but I hope I'm not the only one. It would be
19	helpful for me to understand the expectations
20	with regard to committee members and
21	presenting as we go through.
22	I didn't come in with any

1	particular expectations about formalized
2	presenting and so just the, a little bit of
3	just discussing the balance between committee
4	members versus the developers of the criteria,
5	or proposals, would be helpful for example.
6	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. And I'll let
7	NQF staff respond to this as well regarding
8	their expectations, but I think this is an
9	area that past committee members can help with
10	as well.
11	And, you know, my perspective is,
12	you know, if you have a question ask it. You
13	know, if it's helping or if there's something
14	you want answered in order to understand how
15	you would want to vote.
16	But when we're presenting the
17	measures, at least my perspective is to do the
18	highlights and stop at those things either in
19	the workgroup that we brought up or as I
20	myself in understanding the measures would
21	want some kind of explanation for in order to
22	give a response to and that's where I think

1	it's the improved process of having the
2	developers here in the room as well.
3	So, you know, I don't think it's,
4	you know, it's not necessary for you to go
5	into extraordinary detail, but to be able to
6	hit those things that really could impact a
7	vote, you know, with any of the criterion.
8	MS. MUNTHALI: And just to add, we
9	have just put up on the screen a script for
10	introducing measures for the discussion and we
11	are going to copy them for the entire
12	committee and this is something we sent out
13	with materials in preparation for today's
14	meeting, and really just to be, as Sarah said,
15	just to give highlights of the criterion in
16	order.
17	So for importance we'd give, just
18	as we did, for evidence, opportunity for
19	improvement, impact, and then we'd move on to,
20	we'd for each one of those, after each one,
21	we'd have a committee discussion and committee
22	vote on whatever sub-criterion that is, and so

1	we've indicated so on the script.
2	And then we'd go down to the next
3	criterion of scientific acceptability to
4	measure and report, and then we would talk
5	about reliability, have a committee
б	discussion, vote on that, go down to validity,
7	have a committee discussion, vote on that, and
8	then we'd also go to feasibility, vote on that
9	criterion, and then we would go to use and
10	usability and have a discussion and vote on
11	that.
12	So just very high level, a
12 13	So just very high level, a synopsis of what the workgroup discussed, any
13	synopsis of what the workgroup discussed, any
13 14	synopsis of what the workgroup discussed, any of the issues that came up during the
13 14 15	synopsis of what the workgroup discussed, any of the issues that came up during the workgroup we'd like to discuss as well, and
13 14 15 16	synopsis of what the workgroup discussed, any of the issues that came up during the workgroup we'd like to discuss as well, and this is the opportunity to really ask
13 14 15 16 17	synopsis of what the workgroup discussed, any of the issues that came up during the workgroup we'd like to discuss as well, and this is the opportunity to really ask developers who are here.
13 14 15 16 17 18	synopsis of what the workgroup discussed, any of the issues that came up during the workgroup we'd like to discuss as well, and this is the opportunity to really ask developers who are here. We appreciate your attendance and
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	synopsis of what the workgroup discussed, any of the issues that came up during the workgroup we'd like to discuss as well, and this is the opportunity to really ask developers who are here. We appreciate your attendance and your explanation in advance of some of the

1	MS. KHAN: And I just want to add,
2	we are getting copies for you, but if you, in
3	the meantime, it is posted on the SharePoint
4	site, so you can, if any of you have your
5	laptops you can pull it up and just kind of
6	follow the way the outline works, and
7	hopefully that'll streamline the discussion
8	quite a bit.
9	MS. SAMPSEL: Jane?
10	MS. CHIANG: So just to reiterate
11	what John said, I think what we're asking for
12	is in regard to the voting process there, we
13	can have a robust discussion about the various
14	measures, et cetera, but when there are times
15	when you have a series of questions and you
16	are asked, kind of like what David was saying,
17	you have to weigh these different factors, it
18	makes it very difficult.
19	Because these are important
20	measures it makes it very difficult for me to
21	rank order them quickly and then to make a
22	vote. And I guess I'm a little cautious

1	because we can all say that yes, for (a), (b),
2	and (c) it meets the high, but then there's a
3	couple that are concerning, do we just give
4	that whole thing an insufficient measure or a
5	low, insufficient evidence or low?
6	So that's kind of what I'm
7	referring to, and the other thing that I'd
8	like to hear a little bit more that if there
9	is, if I prefer to abstain from a vote of if
10	there's disagreement where is, at what point
11	do we talk about that?
12	So I would like to know what's the
13	process for that?
14	MS. MUNTHALI: Yes, those are very
15	good questions and that's why we've come up
16	with the algorithms as a guidance to
17	evaluating the measures, but also we would
18	like you to talk about those issues.
19	We realize that consensus doesn't
20	mean agreement by the entire committee and so
21	we, even if you have some concerns we want to
22	represent the opinions, all of the opinions of

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1	the Committee in our final report. That will
2	be the recommendation on the different
3	measures.
4	And so, but I'd like to hear what
5	other Committee think and I think, Arjun, you
6	have a question.
7	MR. VENKATESH: Yes. I think it's
8	related to that in a sense that one of the
9	criticisms of the previous consensus
10	development process has been that it was not
11	consistent within committees.
12	And so that a measure, you know,
13	may not be found to have validity, but a very
14	similar measure could come to that committee
15	later on and then be viewed as such.
16	And I think one of the things
17	we're struggling with as a new group coming
18	here is getting some general sense of what
19	that shared consistency and reliability looks
20	like within the way we vote, you know.
21	So when I say moderate am I
22	thinking the same thing as somebody else when

1	they say moderate? Would it be too much to
2	ask if we said that in the kind of, either
3	during the lead discussant portion of
4	presenting kind of the workgroup's thoughts
5	about a measure or when people speak about
6	this measure that to some degree you kind of
7	say, you know, I think, I feel like it's a
8	moderate because of this or whatever the
9	concern is?
10	And I think that that would then
11	help people understand how to, kind of in a
12	shared way, interpret things that they see?
13	MS. MUNTHALI: Yes, absolutely.
14	And this, I would just call the committee's
15	attention again to the algorithms because the
16	algorithms were developed for that reason, to
17	bring about consistency.
18	So we're applying these and using
19	them in all of our consensus development
20	projects. So it's giving you guidance on
21	where you would rate that measure based on the
22	criterion and sub-criterion.

1	And I think definitely, this is
2	the day that you are voting on those measures
3	and so I think it's really within your purview
4	to say this is the reason why, but we want to
5	have some sort of rationale associated with it
6	that is based on something that can be applied
7	for another measure that may come up during
8	the next cycle of Health and Well Being
9	measures.
10	So that's really the reason why we
11	put together the guidance because we knew
12	people were struggling. It's really, really
13	hard to kind of come up with standardization
14	when you're using, you know, this scientific,
15	you know, measure evaluation guidance, but
16	also subjectivity depending on what your
17	perspective is.
18	MS. NISHIMI: And I really do want
19	to emphasize folks having the algorithm in
20	front of them as they think about the high,
21	low, moderate.
22	They are really intended to remove

1	the subjectivity and sort of group think,
2	loudest voice, saying it's low type of thing.
3	I mean it's really important for you to sort
4	of internalize the messaging that's carried
5	within this document.
6	It's developed specifically to
7	even out steering committee performance.
8	MS. MUNTHALI: Are there other
9	questions about the process?
10	MS. KHAN: I will add that if we
11	do have a vote where we have a significant
12	number or even like one or two people that
13	were in disagreement we are more than welcome
14	to capture your comments as part of our
15	report.
16	We actually really do look for
17	that feedback as to why someone didn't agree
18	with why a measure didn't meet the criteria,
19	so feel free to share your thoughts whenever.
20	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay.
21	MS. KHAN: Oh, I think Patty
22	MS. SAMPSEL: Oh, I'm sorry, go

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1	ahead.
2	MS. MCKANE: There it goes. When
3	do we have that opportunity to share our
4	thoughts that may be, some of mine I know were
5	a little bit divergent and it's based on my
6	background and my perspective of this, and
7	also my interpretation of your algorithm.
8	So is that going to be after the
9	close of the meeting or, do I have to remember
10	that or do we speak out at other times? And
11	I'm also, you know, one of the people that
12	I'm, this is, and I also see like a lot of
13	gray areas sometimes where it's just not
14	clear, you know.
15	When I'm doing this, you know,
16	there's tons of different interpretations and,
17	you know, I know you're trying to bring
18	consistency and to try to ensure that
19	everybody has a voice and that's great, but in
20	some ways it becomes difficult for me to
21	translate all that into a vote.
22	Because sometimes I see things as

1	being, I'll see it has strengths here, it has
2	weaknesses here, and is that weakness, does
3	that override, and to me in some places that's
4	so important, it's not being addressed, but
5	when I have to follow that algorithm then that
6	goes away.
7	MS. KHAN: So what I would say is
8	that as we move towards using kind of this
9	script as the way we're going to have
10	discussion is that if you have an issue with
11	one of the criteria, say evidence for example,
12	I would bring it up during that discussion, we
13	would take the vote, if you wanted to make a
14	comment post-vote we would more, we'll capture
15	that in the transcript and we'll have that in
16	the report as well.
17	So it's really just whenever the
18	Committee has the discussion. We don't want
19	to be too prescriptive either because we want
20	the conversation to kind of flow naturally,
21	but I would say I think going to this kind of
22	script model will be helpful for everyone to

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1	be able to voice their opinion in an organized
2	way.
3	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. Any other
4	questions about process? Then we will go
5	ahead and move to Measure 2509 and prior to
6	the discussion leaders starting I wanted to
7	find out, Krishna, Dr. Crall, any brief
8	comments about this measure?
9	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: I'll keep it
10	really brief. This is very, very similar to
11	the previous measures it simply goes to the
12	next age cohort when the next molar comes into
13	the mouth and, again, the rationale,
14	everything is the same.
15	So I don't want to belabor it, I
16	just want to point out one thing that during
17	the break we had a conversation about the
18	measure testing and validity where we have
19	very high kappa statistics to demonstrate that
20	there is a lot of concordance with the claims
21	data as well as the chart reviews.
22	We can definitely have Dr. Herndon

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1	present a little bit more if you have any
2	questions regarding that, but I did want to
3	call that out to your attention.
4	MS. SAMPSEL: Robert?
5	MR. VALDEZ: I'm sorry, I didn't
6	get my tag up fast enough. This actually
7	isn't about the measures, it's a follow up to
8	this last discussion.
9	The one are that we don't as a
10	group have a chance to really talk is whether
11	or not we in fact are endorsing or not
12	endorsing after we've taken all of these
13	criterion into account, because one of the
14	things that we're asked to think about is,
15	well how does this measure fit with other
16	measures that are likely to come?
17	The developers in fact talked to
18	us in this last measure as an example that
19	they had a measure that was dental, they had
20	a measure that was oral, and they had a
21	measure that was dental or oral to capture the
22	fact that the children in fact had received

1	the arrangements.
2	But we never really had an
3	opportunity to talk about that before we were
4	asked to actually vote on that kind of issue,
5	because it's not really part, it wasn't really
6	part of the discussion piece.
7	So it would helpful to at least
8	have some discussion about the overall
9	assessment of endorsements as a group because
10	it requires us to in fact create all these
11	other things plus the sense of the family of
12	measures that potentially could be brought
13	forth.
14	MS. MUNTHALI: Absolutely, and I
15	think that would be another discussion point
16	for tomorrow when we talk about the portfolio
17	in more detail when we're talking about GAPs
18	and harmonization.
19	I think one of the recommendations
20	you can make is, you know, to see a measure
21	like DQA said that they are in the process of
22	developing. I think that is within the

1	
1	committee's purview.
2	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, so with that
3	Measure 2509, Margaret, Ron, which of you were
4	going to lead?
5	(Off microphone discussion)
6	MS. SAMPSEL: Oh, okay. So Ron by
7	default.
8	MR. INGE: By default just like on
9	our conference call this measure is very
10	similar to the one we just discussed. All of
11	the evidence, all of the parameters are the
12	same.
13	We're simply looking at a
14	different tooth in the mouth based upon the
15	eruption pattern. I'm not sure if you want me
16	to go through each step again because we'll
17	repeat what we spoke about the first time, so
18	I'm asking that question.
19	MS. SAMPSEL: Yes. I mean I don't
20	think it's necessary to go through the same
21	talking points.
22	MR. INGE: Okay.

1	MS. SAMPSEL: But what we'll want
2	to do is go ahead and start with Criterion 1
3	so then we can ask to go to a vote and to the
4	same option, open it up to see if anybody has
5	any different discussion on Criterion 1 to
6	start with.
7	MR. INGE: Okay.
8	MS. SAMPSEL: And then as we go
9	through.
10	MR. INGE: Okay. And we lost
11	Kaitlynn.
12	FEMALE PARTICIPANT: She's
13	standing out
14	MS. SAMPSEL: Oh, there she is.
15	MR. INGE: Okay, so Criterion 1 is
16	the evidence. It's stated similar to the
17	first in regards to the prevalence of decay
18	and also the studies that support the
19	placement of sealants for the reduction of
20	decay.
21	I think that's really the only
22	real comment about the evidence from that

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1	standpoint. Performance in the measure,
2	again, something that can be captured through
3	CDT codes that are very commonly used to
4	identify risk.
5	It's also an opportunity with the
6	new risk codes as well as the use of history,
7	that is the restoration that had been placed
8	previously, will also help to define risk of
9	a patient population.
10	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. From the
11	committee, for Criterion Number 1 and
12	importance to measure and report were there
13	any other additional questions or comments
14	that anybody wanted out on the table for
15	discussion before vote?
16	Okay, Kaitlynn. Oh, I'm sorry,
17	Jane?
18	MS. CHIANG: So is the evidence
19	better or is it the same?
20	MR. INGE: It's basically the
21	same.
22	MS. CHIANG: Okay, thank you.

1	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. For
2	1(a), evidence outcome, health outcome with
3	rationale yes, or quantity and quality,
4	consistency of body of evidence, moderate or
5	high.
6	MS. KHAN: It's actually 1(a),
7	evidence for a processed measure.
8	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Oh, gosh,
9	okay. There we go. Okay, so 1(a), evidence
10	process, so 1(a), evidence for quantity or
11	quality, consistency from SR was submitted,
12	box 5(a) high, 5(b) moderate, 5(c) low.
13	If QQC not submitted and graded
14	guideline recommendation box 6, yes moderate,
15	no low. If empirical evidence without SR box
16	9, yes moderate, no, no, low, sorry.
17	If expert opinion, box 12, yes,
18	insufficient without exception, no,
19	insufficient. One is high, only eligible if
20	QQC submitted, two is moderate, three is low,
21	four is insufficient evidence, five is
22	insufficient evidence with exception.

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1	MS. KHAN: Right. So we're
2	looking at algorithm 1, it's the first page,
3	guidance for evaluating the clinical evidence,
4	and the box numbers are the ones that are
5	called out into the voting slide.
6	(Pause)
7	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, are folks
8	ready to vote?
9	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. The
10	vote is now open.
11	(Pause)
12	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay, there
13	are two more votes out.
14	(Pause)
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. All
16	votes are in. For 1(a), evidence, seven voted
17	for high, there were 14 votes for moderate,
18	zero votes for low, zero votes for
19	insufficient evidence, and zero votes for
20	insufficient evidence with exception.
21	MS. SAMPSEL: Thank you. So, oh,
22	sorry, we're on 1(b).

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1	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay, so
2	1(b), performance gap, data demonstrated
3	considerable variation or overall less than
4	optimal performance across providers and/or
5	population groups, disparities and care.
6	One is high, two is moderate,
7	three is low, and four is insufficient.
8	Voting begins now.
9	(Pause)
10	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: All votes are
11	in and voting will end now. For 1(b) there
12	were 13 votes for high, eight votes for
13	moderate, zero votes for low, and zero votes
14	for insufficient.
15	MS. SAMPSEL: And, Ron, before we
16	move to vote on this, for 1(c) were there any
17	notes, comments, regarding priority on this
18	measure?
19	MR. INGE: None that I have. Let
20	me just look.
21	MR. MCINERNEY: On Page 64 it says
22	that the high priority yes because it was

1 specifically requested by CMS and it was recommended as moderate. 2 3 MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: 1(c), high 4 priority, addresses a specific National health 5 goal, priority, or data demonstrated at a high impact aspect of healthcare, numbers affected, 6 7 resource, use, severity, consequences. One is high, two is moderate, 8 9 three is low, and four is insufficient. 10 Voting begins now. 11 (Pause) 12 MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: We now have 13 all 21 votes and voting will close. For 1(c), 14 high priority, there were 16 votes for high, 15 four votes for moderate, one vote for low, and zero votes for insufficient. 16 17 MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, so we'll move into the next area of scientific acceptability 18 19 and, Ron, I'll ask you if you'll look at the 20 discussant guide and just if you could 21 highlight those areas in that guide. 22 What we want to make sure, and

1	again this is just going back to process, is
2	making sure that we do for each measure,
3	consider them individually, that even though
4	these all came together, they are individual
5	measures.
6	And, you know, we're not going to
7	ask anybody to repeat the conversation that we
8	just had on the other measure, at the same
9	time we do want to get on record that we had
10	this conversation, that we are all considering
11	the correct measure, which was 2509, and let's
12	just bring up the specific details about the
13	measure regarding numerator, denominator, and
14	scientific acceptability properties.
15	MR. INGE: So in regards to the
16	liability and validity the methodology
17	(Off microphone discussion)
18	MR. INGE: The methodology that
19	was put forth is very specific. The tooth
20	number, the use of identifying codes, very
21	specific, was repeatable in two different
22	populations, so I felt that it had a high

1	reliability as well as validity within the
2	measure.
3	MS. SAMPSEL: Krishna, go ahead.
4	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Sure. I do want
5	to point out here once again that this is
6	where, you know, we failed to mention last
7	time that we do have very high kappa scores.
8	We did conduct testing to seek, in
9	accordance with reviews, to whether it's the
10	claims data, so very high kappa scores in
11	terms of inter-rater liability.
12	We also had data for different
13	calendar years as well as data between
14	different plans, so all that information for
15	this measure is available within your measure
16	tasking form.
17	MS. SAMPSEL: And other questions,
18	comments, concerns, about scientific
19	acceptability? Go ahead, Ron.
20	MR. BIALEK: I've been grappling
21	with the criteria that the, the document that
22	has the population health guidance on that and

1	it, in 2(b)(5) it talks about will the
2	measure, you know, allow for determining a
3	variation across populations and improving
4	health.
5	Or there is evidence of overall
6	less than optimal performance of significant
7	variation across populations and so, I mean
8	the way I'm interpreting that is that if there
9	is noted disparities as has been suggested by
10	the measure developers then those disparities
11	should be able to be teased out in the
12	measure. Is that what this says or not?
13	MS. MUNTHALI: Adeela, can you
14	actually pull up the guidance so we can walk
15	the committee through it? It's the Population
16	Health Measure Evaluation Guidance.
17	(Off microphone discussion)
18	MS. MUNTHALI: It's the one
19	before, yes.
20	Okay, so what we did just for
21	background, earlier when I mentioned the first
22	project on population health measures I talked

1	about the foundation of work that the
2	committee did and part of that was really
3	looking at the NQF measure evaluation criteria
4	to see if the criteria are applicable to
5	population level measures.
6	And by and large the committee
7	felt that they were, but with some nuances or
8	guidance around nomenclature on making sure
9	that the references that we had to the
10	healthcare system were applicable and more
11	widely applied to population health settings.
12	And so, Ron, you were talking
13	about 2(b)(5)?
14	MR. INGE: Yes.
15	MS. MUNTHALI: Okay. And so what
16	you have on the left side is our current
17	measure evaluation guidance for non-population
18	based measures and what you have on the right
19	side is the guidance that the committee came
20	up with.
21	What the added is the text in red.
22	And so Ron is talking about the variation

1	across populations and improving health and
2	wondering whether or not this, would this sort
3	of difference in population should be
4	reflected in the measure as disparities.
5	And so this is one thing you might
6	factor in as you're rating the, I think it's
7	validity, is it? Am I correct? Yes.
8	MALE PARTICIPANT: Yes.
9	MS. MUNTHALI: So, Krishna, did
10	you want to respond to Okay, they haven't
11	done so.
12	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: We do have data
13	there to show you disparities by age, by
14	different things, so, yes, there are
15	disparities in population and yes, we hope
16	that this measure will trigger improvement in
17	those areas.
18	MS. MUNTHALI: And we just wanted
19	to let everyone know this is available on your
20	SharePoint site. So you can refer to it as
21	you're evaluating these measures.
22	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. So

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1
      2(a), reliability, including 2(a)(1), precise
      specifications, 2(a)(2), testing, appropriate
 2
 3
      method, and scope with adequate results.
                  One is high, two is moderate,
 4
      three is low, and four is insufficient, and
 5
      voting begins now.
 6
 7
                  (Pause)
 8
                  MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR:
                                        Okay, we're
 9
      still waiting for two votes.
10
                  (Pause)
11
                  MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR:
                                        One vote.
12
                  (Pause)
13
                  MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: So we missed
14
      one vote, so we have to go back and enter it
15
      again. Okay, voting begins now.
16
                  (Pause)
17
                  MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR:
                                       We have all
      of the votes and voting is now closed.
18
                                               Okay,
19
      so for high there were five votes, there were
      15 votes for moderate, zero votes for low, and
20
21
      one vote for insufficient.
22
                  Okay. So for validity, including
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1	2(b)(1), specifications consistent with
2	evidence, 2(b)(2), testing, appropriate method
3	and scope with adequate results and threats
4	addressed, 2(b)(3), exclusions, 2(b)(4), risk
5	adjustment/stratification, 2(b)(5), meaningful
6	differences, 2(b)(6), comparability, multiple
7	specifications, 2(b)(7), missing data,
8	eMeasures, compositives, PROs, PMs.
9	One is high, two is moderate,
10	three is low, and four is insufficient.
11	Voting begins now.
12	(Pause)
13	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: We now have
14	all of our votes and voting will close. There
15	are four votes for high, 16 votes for
16	moderate, one vote for low, and zero votes for
17	insufficient.
18	MS. SAMPSEL: So before we move
19	
	onto the next major criterion I just wanted to
20	onto the next major criterion I just wanted to pause for a minute and, you know, to reflect
20 21	
	pause for a minute and, you know, to reflect

1	scientific acceptability of this measure?
2	Okay. So then moving into
3	feasibility and, Ron, again, this goes back to
4	the measure worksheet and any comments that
5	should be brought up would be about data
6	sources, if you could comment data sources,
7	and if any feasibility concerns had been
8	brought up regarding this measure before we
9	vote.
10	MR. INGE: The only concern would
11	be that the data source is claims data and
12	that claims data does not account for those
13	individuals who have not entered the system,
14	that would be the only challenge around the
15	data source.
16	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. Any other
17	questions or comments about feasibility?
18	Okay, Kaitlynn.
19	MS. MCKANE: It's just that it's,
20	the claims are within the Medicaid claims,
21	right?
22	MR. INGE: Medicaid or commercial.

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1	MS. MCKANE: Or commercial?
2	MS. SAMPSEL: So these are
3	Medicaid and commercial, Krishna?
4	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: I'm sorry, yes.
5	The measure will apply to both Medicaid and
6	commercial sectors. So as was pointed out
7	before, anyone who has not had a touch point
8	with a system, who's had no claims, but is
9	sort of enrolled just not seeking care, will
10	not be reflected in this measure, but it goes
11	back to the point that we made that there's no
12	one magic measure, there are other measures
13	like the utilization which will pickup
14	enrollees who are not using the system.
15	MS. SAMPSEL: David?
16	MR. KROL: Yes. That just, it
17	just struck me that that brings up the
18	question if the individual has come for the
19	first time to see the dentist and how does the
20	risk status, if the risk status at that first
21	visit isn't determined by the three CDT codes
22	then presumably they wouldn't have any risk

1	status at all because the basis of risk
2	status, the alternative basis of risk status
3	is based on previous interaction with the
4	system by having had a number of CDT codes
5	before.
6	So what happens to the individual
7	that's never had an interaction with the
8	system and this is their first time being
9	measured? The first time, do you follow what
10	I'm saying?
11	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Okay, yes. We
12	tried to do things like add some more risk
13	logic to say okay, if they have never been
14	with the system automatically bump them up to
15	high risk and capture that.
16	But there were validity issues, we
17	went through a whole face validity process
18	with that and there was simply not agreement
19	that that would be a good thing to do with the
20	measure, especially being a performance
21	measure.
22	So what passed the face validity

1	is use this measure to identify the core group
2	that can be identified using claims. Now
3	let's say we had great performance with that
4	core group, we'd say okay, it's time to move
5	on, let's figure out where the kids were
6	losing.
7	Now because we're seeing a
8	performance gap even with the kids that can
9	identified using claims data, this is a
10	measure to push towards that. So eventually
11	by then we are hoping that the CDT codes will
12	kick in.
13	The user services, the oral
14	evaluation measures will help improve that
15	access concern and then move the system
16	forward. So this is meant just for that core
17	group that can be identified as high risk.
18	MR. KROL: Okay, so they wouldn't
19	be included in the denominator, those folks
20	that came for the first time
21	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Now denominators
22	simply are enrollees, it doesn't even require

1	a use of the health system.
2	MR. KROL: Well actually it's not,
3	it's enrollees who are at elevated risk.
4	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: They are at
5	MR. KROL: So, and you just said,
6	if I heard you correctly, it's individuals who
7	have not had a visit before and don't have one
8	of the three CDT codes that define risk, they
9	will not, you won't be able to assess risk?
10	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Correct. So
11	they have to be in the system this year or the
12	past three years. So then you could identify
13	them as the core group.
14	So you're right that we will lose
15	some people, but, again, the point was if we
16	did great with that core group that absolutely
17	needed this prevention we'd be looking at the
18	next set, but we just aren't doing so well
19	even with that core group.
20	MR. CRALL: And I was just going
21	to add, this is an older group and it is the
22	group that historically we know is most likely

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1 to use services within the pediatric 2 population, sorry. 3 MS. SAMPSEL: Any other questions 4 or concerns? Kaitlynn. 5 MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For feasibility, 3(a), data generated during care, 6 7 3(b), electronic sources, and 3(c), data collection can be implemented, eMeasure, 8 9 feasibility, assessment of data, elements, and 10 logic. 11 One is high, two is moderate, 12 three is low, four is insufficient. Voting 13 begins now. 14 (Pause) 15 MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Thank you. We now have all of our votes and voting will 16 17 close. For feasibility there were 13 votes for high, eight votes for moderate, zero votes 18 19 for low, and zero votes for insufficient. 20 MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, and we'll move 21 into usability and use and I think, as has 22 been previously stated, this measure is in

1	current use and has been required some States.
2	Ron, were there any other comments
3	gathered on usability and use?
4	MR. INGE: No, just that it's in
5	limited use at this time.
6	MS. SAMPSEL: Krishna, anything?
7	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Nothing. It's a
8	new measure and this is very parallel to the
9	previous measure.
10	MS. SAMPSEL: And, Kaitlynn.
11	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Usability and
12	use, 4(a), accountability, transparency, used
13	in accountability within three years, public
14	reporting within six years, or if new,
15	credible plan, and 4(b), improvement, progress
16	demonstrated, if new, credible rationale, and
17	4(c), benefits outweigh evidence of unintended
18	negative consequences to patients/populations.
19	One is high, two is moderate,
20	three is low, and four is insufficient, and
21	voting begins now.
22	(Pause)

1	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: We need one
2	more vote. All of the votes are in and voting
3	will now close. For usability and use there
4	were ten votes for high, nine votes for
5	moderate, one vote for low, and one vote for
6	insufficient information.
7	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay. So before we
8	go to the overall suitability for endorsement
9	we'll go ahead, again, and pause for any
10	questions or comments or concerns because this
11	is the overall vote.
12	MS. ASOMUGHA: So I don't know if
13	it's a concern or an anxiety, but I know we're
14	supposed to be looking at these measures
15	individually, but you could almost assume that
16	the previous one is like a pair to it,
17	correct, or no? I mean
18	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: I don't quite
19	understand the concept of a paired measure as
20	NQF uses that term.
21	MS. ASOMUGHA: Oh.
22	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: I see paired

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1	measures more as in order to interpret the
2	measure you have to have both these scores, if
3	I'm thinking right, that's not the case with
4	this. It can stand independently.
5	MS. ASOMUGHA: Sorry, I wasn't
6	using it in the way that NQF is using it.
7	(Laughter)
8	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So with that I,
9	both the measures can stand independently. I
10	think from a best practice standpoint the
11	advice we would go to give to programs and
12	plans adopting these measures is use both
13	together because you want to make sure that
14	the child is being followed.
15	MS. ASOMUGHA: Right.
16	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The advantage of
17	using both together is, again, like Dr. Crall
18	pointed out, it's one sealant at one of the
19	four teeth.
20	The thing that we are, we're
21	trying to change provider behavior here, so to
22	track both measures will actually help see if

1 the system is keeping up. 2 MS. ASOMUGHA: Right, okay. Thank 3 you. 4 MS. MUNTHALI: I'm sorry. I just wanted to clarify how we are using the term 5 paired, it is how you described it. So the 6 7 measures can stand on their own, but have separate scores and that is different from a 8 9 composite where we would actually have the 10 measures reported together and they have one 11 single score. 12 So the committee could recommend 13 that if they wish, but I'll allow the 14 discussion. 15 MS. CHIANG: So I think, I had the same question. I think that it's just --16 17 MALE PARTICIPANT: Turn on the microphone. 18 MS. CHIANG: 19 I actually have the 20 same question and I think it's just to make 21 sure that we're consistent in our response, 22 right?

1	Because, and perhaps it could be
2	because maybe some of were new and really
3	didn't understand the voting process and maybe
4	we changed our answers since between the two,
5	but I had that same concern.
6	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: If I might just
7	add, as a developer when I went into the
8	forums to submit the forms we had the ability
9	to give them as individual measures and also
10	check off a box to say if we believe that it
11	could be paired.
12	Now we did not check off the box
12 13	Now we did not check off the box so it's coming to as an individual, but we
13	so it's coming to as an individual, but we
13 14	so it's coming to as an individual, but we have no problem, you know, going back and
13 14 15	so it's coming to as an individual, but we have no problem, you know, going back and saying, you know, pair these as well.
13 14 15 16	so it's coming to as an individual, but we have no problem, you know, going back and saying, you know, pair these as well. I'm not understanding what it
13 14 15 16 17	so it's coming to as an individual, but we have no problem, you know, going back and saying, you know, pair these as well. I'm not understanding what it would do to the health system in terms of
13 14 15 16 17 18	so it's coming to as an individual, but we have no problem, you know, going back and saying, you know, pair these as well. I'm not understanding what it would do to the health system in terms of advocating it as a pair, so I would be, I
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	so it's coming to as an individual, but we have no problem, you know, going back and saying, you know, pair these as well. I'm not understanding what it would do to the health system in terms of advocating it as a pair, so I would be, I think we would be okay with having them
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	so it's coming to as an individual, but we have no problem, you know, going back and saying, you know, pair these as well. I'm not understanding what it would do to the health system in terms of advocating it as a pair, so I would be, I think we would be okay with having them endorsed individually as well as paired, not

I	
1	I think we don't want that. So if
2	we can look at individual endorsement as well
3	as a paired version if that's okay with the
4	committee.
5	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Overall
6	suitability for endorsement, does the measure
7	meet NQF criteria for endorsement? Note, this
8	may not yet be a recommendation for
9	endorsement.
10	Final recommendation for
11	endorsement may depend on assessment of any
12	related and competing measures. One is yes,
13	two is no, and voting begins now.
14	(Pause)
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: We're still
16	waiting on one vote. All votes are in and
17	voting is now closed.
18	For overall suitability for
19	endorsement for Measure 2509, Prevention
20	Dental Sealants for 10 to 14 Year Old Children
21	at Elevated Caries Risk, there were 18 votes
22	for yes and three votes for no, so the measure

1 is endorsed. 2 MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, so with that, one, lunch is here, but before we go to lunch 3 4 we need to open up for a public comment and, 5 Kathy, can you open the lines for public comment please. 6 7 OPERATOR: Yes, ma'am. At this time if you would like to make a comment 8 9 please press star then the number one on your 10 telephone keypad. 11 There are no public comments at 12 this time. 13 MS. KHAN: Okay, I believe we're 14 going to take a break for lunch. Everyone is 15 welcome to lunch. So we'll be back here at 12:35, 12:45, sorry, a half an hour. 16 17 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter went off the record at 12:11 p.m. and went 18 19 back on the record at 12:48 p.m.) 20 MR. MCINERNEY: I want to thank 21 everyone for being so diligent and sitting 22 down again getting ready to go, on time, after

1	a short lunch break.
2	And just before the lunch break,
3	Elisa and Sarah and Adeela and I were
4	remarking that although the voting on the
5	first measure, I think there was some degree
6	of sort of a little confusion and a novice
7	feeling about how the whole process worked,
8	and then we did some explanation and changed
9	a little bit the methodology of voting on the
10	second measure, and I think people felt a
11	little bit more confident about that.
12	But as we looked at the votes on
12 13	But as we looked at the votes on the two measures, they really were fairly
13	the two measures, they really were fairly
13 14	the two measures, they really were fairly similar. So I think we can feel pretty good
13 14 15	the two measures, they really were fairly similar. So I think we can feel pretty good about the fact that even though we may have
13 14 15 16	the two measures, they really were fairly similar. So I think we can feel pretty good about the fact that even though we may have felt at times a little uncertain about that
13 14 15 16 17	the two measures, they really were fairly similar. So I think we can feel pretty good about the fact that even though we may have felt at times a little uncertain about that first vote, it really came out pretty well.
13 14 15 16 17 18	the two measures, they really were fairly similar. So I think we can feel pretty good about the fact that even though we may have felt at times a little uncertain about that first vote, it really came out pretty well. And once we were feeling a little
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	the two measures, they really were fairly similar. So I think we can feel pretty good about the fact that even though we may have felt at times a little uncertain about that first vote, it really came out pretty well. And once we were feeling a little more knowledgeable, we ended up voting pretty

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1	before it can be a bit overwhelming.
2	Even though I'd been through the
3	process once before a couple of years or three
4	years ago, it's a pretty rigorous analysis
5	that we're required to do as we go through the
6	algorithms, and it does require a certain
7	amount of discipline to follow the guidelines
8	on how to do the voting and then judge these
9	measures.
10	So thanks everyone for sticking
11	with it, and we'll hopefully, as we move
12	through the afternoon, we'll feel a little bit
13	more confident with each vote, each measure.
14	So at this point we're moving on
15	to Measure Number 2528, the Prevention Topical
16	Fluoride for Children at Elevated Caries Risk,
17	Dental Services. And that is on Page 86 of
18	your measure worksheet. It's actually the
19	last, I think it's the last measure on the
20	worksheet. There are 91 pages on the
21	worksheet if you're on the same worksheet that
22	I'm on.

1	So the brief description of the
2	measure is the percentage of enrolled children
3	age 1 to 21 years who are at elevated risk,
4	that is, either moderate or high who received
5	at least two topical fluoride applications
6	within the reporting year.
7	And who wanted to lead the
8	discussion on this?
9	MS. SAMPSEL: Robert, did you want
10	to start or can you use your microphone?
11	And also, I guess, before we do that did the
12	Dental Quality Alliance have any quick
13	comments?
14	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: I can give you a
15	quick overview of this measure. This is the
16	second preventive service in terms of what we
17	know is dentistry. This is again very well
18	supported by Cochrane Reviews and evidence
19	based guidelines.
20	It has been more than a decade
21	since we know that this works and we're still
22	seeing a performance gap. So hopefully

1	putting a measure in place will help us move
2	that needle forward.
3	The performance at the PC
4	requires, is both reflective of an access
5	problem as well as a performance problem at
6	the provider level in applying these sealants
7	of these fluoride, topical fluorides.
8	The one thing that I would like to
9	state that the measure is very specific to at
10	least two topical fluoride applications,
11	because we have evidence and guidelines that
12	shows that, you know, simply just one
13	application, it's not cutting it.
14	The guidelines definitely talk
15	about applications every three to six months,
16	and so anyone who's identified at a moderate
17	or high we'd like to at least see that two
18	varnish applications each year be met.
19	The risk criteria, the risk logic,
20	everything is the same as the previous
21	measures. The CAPA statistics, the
22	reliability, validity, everything was, scores

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1	are all presented and very similar to the
2	sealant measures.
3	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay.
4	MR. BAER: The ambulatory care,
5	clinician office, clinic, is that just
6	dentists or are you including primary care
7	folks who are applying varnish?
8	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So this is again
9	a dental services measure like we went, and
10	there is a currently endorsed measure that's
11	a sister measure to this that measures the
12	oral health services.
13	MS. SAMPSEL: Now we'll ask
14	Robert, if you could, using the script that
15	was passed out so we can walk through each
16	criteria in this group and have discussion.
17	MR. VALDEZ: Okay. Evidence. The
18	committee in looking at this has certainly
19	found that there was moderate evidence to good
20	evidence. Although there was some questions
21	about the degree to which studies supported
22	this particular measure, its focus, it follows

1 ADA recommendations that were supported by 2 systematic review. 3 Did you want to do one? All of 4 them? I'd like to make 5 MR. MCINERNEY: just one comment. There are pediatricians in 6 7 the country who will apply dental fluoride especially for Medicaid patients. 8 For 9 pediatricians, it's one of the few procedures 10 that we can do and get paid for. 11 And so not only because it's the 12 right thing to do, but also because we get 13 paid for doing it, some pediatricians who have a high proportion of Medicaid patients will 14 15 apply dental sealants. So what I'm a bit concerned about 16 17 with this measure is as you're looking at the measure, if a child has had dental sealant 18 19 twice a year in a pediatrician's office, how 20 is that recorded or you just miss those? 21 MR. CRALL: I would say Dr. 22 McInerney, with the use of this measure it

1	would not look at those children. However, as
2	I showed on the initial slide, with what we
3	know from CMS and Medicaid data at least up
4	this point in time that applies to about four
5	percent.
6	And as you well know, most of the
7	programs around the country, across the
8	states, are really emphasizing sort of the
9	birth to three years or perhaps just a bit
10	beyond for the pediatrician again trying to
11	take advantage of the periodicity schedules
12	around well child visits and immunizations and
13	all those encounters that occur.
14	As we pointed out, we have a
15	parallel measure for this that is the oral
16	health as well as a measure that looks at
17	both. So we fully embrace the concept of
18	applying all those measures. This is the only
19	one we got the form completed on and filled
20	out up to this point.
21	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: If I might add a
22	little bit more is as we worked through our

1	committees and, you know, figured out what to
2	submit, we were also weighing the decision of
3	as a health system who should be held
4	accountable for this, which portion should be
5	held accountable.
6	The second thing we were thinking
7	about is typically for, especially when you
8	look at risk status, we would like for the
9	pediatricians to assess the risk and give the
10	varnish and then refer.
11	So if you go to this thing about
12	two fluoride varnish applications, then whom
13	are you putting the burden on? Those were
14	some of the discussions that went on.
15	The pediatrician, the oral health
16	service measure that's currently endorsed
17	simply asks for one application which is fine.
18	So there are many who wants us to consider
19	whether taking this for both systems was
20	needed or not.
21	MR. CRALL: And I guess just to
22	add because Krishna's comment just triggered

1	a thought. So you have the already endorsed
2	measure that looks to capture it on the
3	primary care side, and then with this measure
4	would add the capturing it on the dental side.
5	And then obviously, I mean we
6	fully encourage, you know, programs to try to
7	look at both of those measures to understand
8	what was going on in both segments of their
9	delivery system.
10	MR. MCINERNEY: Make sure the
11	patients aren't falling through the cracks
12	between the two.
13	MR. VALDEZ: Tom, we had a long
14	discussion in the working group around this
15	issue, because the real question was what are
16	we really interested in? Are we really
17	interested in whether the kids got the
18	services that they required and needed, or are
19	we more interested in sort of which provider
20	was actually providing it or getting paid for
21	it?
22	And I think there's a great

1	concern that by splitting up measures like
2	this we weren't really looking at the priority
3	of looking at whether or not the children were
4	getting the services they needed even at the
5	programmatic level, and potentially limiting
6	delivery models that would use alternative
7	ways of providing the services.
8	MR. MCINERNEY: So do we have any
9	further discussion on the 1a, the evidence to
10	support the focus? Yes?
11	MR. AUERBACH: I wonder if you
12	could talk about the rationale of the age
13	group? 1 to 21 is a very broad age group and
14	it transcends some definition of pediatrics
15	and may affect insurance coverage as well.
16	And so maybe you could just talk about why
17	that age range is selected.
18	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Sure. I'll
19	start first and maybe Dr. Crall can add on.
20	The 21 mark is what CMS used to define a
21	child. So all our measures are for 21 simply
22	because of how Medicaid programs define a

1	child.
2	We do have a clause within the
3	user guide that in the exchanges marketplaces
4	HHS has chosen to define a child as under 19.
5	So the child cut-off, really, because these
6	are program-level measures, it depends on what
7	the program defines as a child in terms of
8	benefit coverage. So the 21 is what the
9	Medicaid programs and CMS uses as its
10	definition for a child.
11	MR. CRALL: Yes, so I think that
12	is the rationale for why that particular span.
13	Within our measures, we also promote the
14	notion of stratification by age, and we
15	basically adopted the same stratifications
16	that CMS uses in the 416 EBSDT report.
17	So that you can actually, you
18	know, that programs that once they get beyond
19	just an aggregate measure if they're really
20	trying to understand, you know, whether or not
21	services are being provided across a fairly
22	broad age span like 1 to 21, if you really
1	wanted to know, are the preschool age kids
----	--
2	getting it and at what rate? Are the
3	elementary age kids getting it? Are the
4	adolescents getting it?
5	Our measures encourage the use of
6	stratification by age and some other factors
7	that would help understand the delivery across
8	that relatively large age span that you're
9	highlighting here.
10	MR. AUERBACH: So I would just
11	say, I wonder if you could maybe talk about
12	the downside of a measure that's 1 to 21. I
13	would say, you know, as somebody who's worked
14	in government for awhile, CMS may consider
15	children up to 21 to be potentially eligible,
16	but once children are independent of their
17	parents and through their parents' coverage
18	they're not covered on, many children 18 and
19	older or even, you know, younger than that are
20	no longer covered on their parents' Medicaid.
21	So, you know, many are not, change doctors,
22	it's a complicated system.

1	So I guess just view, I wonder if
2	you've considered that from a data collection
3	perspective there are challenges that arise
4	when you've got that, that we should note that
-	when you have that broad of range of age.
6	MR. CRALL: I'll start out, and it
7	actually reminds me of a brief discussion we
8	were having at the lunch break.
9	So I think, you know, the
10	guidelines clearly talk about caries and
11	caries risk being applicable across this broad
12	age range, so, and in fact, you know, some of
13	the probably more dated thinking really
14	focuses around dental caries being a disease
15	of childhood and not of adulthood.
16	So from the standpoint of the
17	evidence and from the standpoint of the
18	mechanisms that we currently have for managing
19	or reducing or controlling the risk of dental
20	caries, not, you know, eliminating the risk
21	for dental caries over time, we think it's
22	important that individuals again identified as

1	a high risk regardless of their age throughout
2	this spectrum, this age spectrum, that that
3	should trigger the more intensive application
4	of topical fluoride.
5	So for that reason we use the 1 to
6	21 to sort of set the entire boundary of the
7	measure. I mean we could bring you five
8	different measures that sliced it by age
9	groups, but I don't think that that would
10	necessarily add anything.
11	And the way that we have tried to
12	accommodate that in all of our measures is to
13	encourage the, look at the analysis of what
14	the data tell you, stratifying by age group.
15	MR. VENKATESH: I guess building
16	on this age question, I was just looking
17	through your evidence submission form, and you
18	have the evidence rated as moderate with the
19	kind of reference as being to evidence that's
20	limited 6 to 18 years of age.
21	And so I guess my question is, if
22	the evidence is for 6 to 18 and a measure that

1	was 6 to 18 could still be used for
2	accountability purposes in any CMS program, I
3	don't think that the CMS program would require
4	you have to have a measure that goes to 21,
5	and it would be able to be used in a
6	marketplace plan.
7	Would it just be more consistent
8	with the evidence and more a reduced
9	measurement burden to have a measure that was
10	that age range?
11	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So I can tell
12	you from the guidelines work that again the
13	age range of 18 was picked based on the
14	commercial plans, and that was the way, you
15	know, most of the marketplace is commercial so
16	we picked the 18 for the guidelines.
17	But if you look at the
18	recommendations, the strength varies from 6 to
19	18 and 18 on forward but the recommendations
20	are still the same in terms of, you know, how
21	frequently fluoride applications need to be
22	done for the high and moderate risk.

1	So the recommendations, per se,
2	don't vary. The strength of the
3	recommendations vary. I will also tell you
4	that our current measure description, sort of,
5	what we'd like to do is for the programs to be
6	able to use the best measure they need, and
7	CMS/Medicaid was what was really looking for
8	this measure.
9	MR. VENKATESH: And I would add, I
10	think, you know, using an age range like 6 to
11	18, actually, would actually send the wrong
12	message.
12 13	message. I mean we are doing everything we
13	I mean we are doing everything we
13 14	I mean we are doing everything we can to increase the emphasis on early
13 14 15	I mean we are doing everything we can to increase the emphasis on early childhood caries and understanding that it's
13 14 15 16	I mean we are doing everything we can to increase the emphasis on early childhood caries and understanding that it's not whether there are primary teeth or whether
13 14 15 16 17	I mean we are doing everything we can to increase the emphasis on early childhood caries and understanding that it's not whether there are primary teeth or whether there are permanent teeth that are affected,
13 14 15 16 17 18	I mean we are doing everything we can to increase the emphasis on early childhood caries and understanding that it's not whether there are primary teeth or whether there are permanent teeth that are affected, that's it's the underlying disease process
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	I mean we are doing everything we can to increase the emphasis on early childhood caries and understanding that it's not whether there are primary teeth or whether there are permanent teeth that are affected, that's it's the underlying disease process that needs to be dealt with. And so starting
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	I mean we are doing everything we can to increase the emphasis on early childhood caries and understanding that it's not whether there are primary teeth or whether there are permanent teeth that are affected, that's it's the underlying disease process that needs to be dealt with. And so starting at 6 would actually set up back, I think,

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1	could speak a little bit to the efficacy of
2	the two applications per year for this entire
3	population. Because I'm looking at an ADA
4	article that suggests that for under the age
5	6 it's not necessarily effective. And I'm
6	just wondering if you can speak to it.
7	And I'm maybe, I'm just going
8	through this stuff really quickly, but, you
9	know, what is the evidence based on? I know
10	about the caries piece, but the efficacy of
11	the intervention for this whole population.
12	MR. CRALL: There are individual
13	articles that either because of the design or
14	the population focus or whatever, certainly
15	the summaries of studies that have been done
16	in multiple populations sometimes with
17	slightly different age groups, et cetera,
18	generally will differentiate for the
19	effectiveness in primary teeth versus
20	permanent teeth, and that brings in the age
21	group piece.
22	You know, again it's much more

1	common and historically has been more common
2	for topical fluorides to be used in older
3	children simply because we haven't served the
4	younger population as well as we could.
5	But the evidence is not that
6	dissimilar in the consensus in terms of the
7	overall effectiveness on topical fluoride
8	applications at this intensity for whether the
9	effect is on permanent teeth or primary teeth.
10	Some variation, yes, but overall generally
11	considered to be effective.
**	considered to be effective.
12	What, sometimes there, you know,
12	What, sometimes there, you know,
12 13	What, sometimes there, you know, where some efforts have been made recently to
12 13 14	What, sometimes there, you know, where some efforts have been made recently to look at some systematic analysis of different
12 13 14 15	What, sometimes there, you know, where some efforts have been made recently to look at some systematic analysis of different types of providers, sometimes that evidence
12 13 14 15 16	What, sometimes there, you know, where some efforts have been made recently to look at some systematic analysis of different types of providers, sometimes that evidence softens up a bit just because it's a
12 13 14 15 16 17	What, sometimes there, you know, where some efforts have been made recently to look at some systematic analysis of different types of providers, sometimes that evidence softens up a bit just because it's a relatively recent phenomenon of engaging those
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	What, sometimes there, you know, where some efforts have been made recently to look at some systematic analysis of different types of providers, sometimes that evidence softens up a bit just because it's a relatively recent phenomenon of engaging those other than dentists in the delivery.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	What, sometimes there, you know, where some efforts have been made recently to look at some systematic analysis of different types of providers, sometimes that evidence softens up a bit just because it's a relatively recent phenomenon of engaging those other than dentists in the delivery. But by and large not, you know, a
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	What, sometimes there, you know, where some efforts have been made recently to look at some systematic analysis of different types of providers, sometimes that evidence softens up a bit just because it's a relatively recent phenomenon of engaging those other than dentists in the delivery. But by and large not, you know, a radical difference in terms of the overall

1	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: And if I might
2	add, the clinical recommendation, I'm trying
3	to pull it up on my phone really quick, but it
4	does go to the younger age group. It doesn't
5	start at 6 to 18.
6	And I'd also like to point out
7	that the reason why pediatricians are paid
8	for, reimbursed and encouraged to do this is
9	because, you know, it is effective in the
10	younger age ranges as well.
11	The United States Preventive Task
12	Force Service came out with a draft for
13	recommendations which is available right now
14	that again promotes the use of topical
15	fluoride varnish.
16	MR. BIALEK: So in the
17	documentation that you submitted I didn't see
18	that in there. Again maybe I am missing it.
19	But you provided the evidence about the
20	efficacy for the age group that the measure
21	applies to? That's in there where there is
22	documentation of the efficacy?

1	
1	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Let me get my
2	computer really quick and take a look at that,
3	but I can tell you that the guidelines do
4	recommend younger than 6 years old and it is
5	a recommendation for red varnish at least
6	every three to six months.
7	Oh, there is, Jill just pointed me
8	to the evidence summary form under Section
9	18.7.7, the recommendations 2.26 percent for
10	red varnish at least three to six months for
11	children younger than 6 years, and then
12	varnish or gel for children 6 to 18. So both
13	of them are referenced.
14	MS. CHIANG: I have a question
15	about feasibility and efficacy. So I also
16	have this concern about the large age range
17	because usually pediatricians don't recommend
18	you go to a dentist when you're a year old.
19	So if you have this, and then also
20	there's the transition period between 18 to 21
21	where we know that this cohort, at least for
22	the other ADA, the diabetes group, we know

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1	that they kind of fall off and neglect their
2	health care.
3	So I have a question about
4	feasibility, how you would actually implement
5	this in those age cohorts and then how
6	feasibility would impact efficacy. So how do
7	you know if you're not getting good results
8	because it's not effective? Because one thing
9	that I also don't understand is in age
10	development, different age cohorts have
11	different, you know, growth and development
12	impacts them.
13	And so at each stage it's a little
14	bit different. I don't know how it is in
15	teeth, but I'm assuming it's the same. So
16	perhaps it's more effective less than 6 years
17	old. But I just don't understand. If you
18	don't define that then how do you know?
19	
	You have two things. One is the
20	You have two things. One is the feasibility problem. How do you know that
20 21	
	feasibility problem. How do you know that

1	don't have it divided up into age cohorts for
2	the feasibility and you get poor efficacy, how
3	can you distinguish between those two?
4	MR. CRALL: Okay. So I think what
5	I'm hearing in these questions, so if you only
6	had, let's say you used sort of the current
7	CMS approach and you included, you know, all
8	the age groups into one aggregate measure
9	that's obviously going to have a whole variety
10	of elements that go into giving you that one
11	aggregate measure.
12	And again, so no one measure is
12 13	And again, so no one measure is going to really sort of be able to untangle
13	going to really sort of be able to untangle
13 14	going to really sort of be able to untangle that. The options you have then are basically
13 14 15	going to really sort of be able to untangle that. The options you have then are basically to design measures around very narrow age
13 14 15 16	going to really sort of be able to untangle that. The options you have then are basically to design measures around very narrow age groups or to promote people to actually use
13 14 15 16 17	going to really sort of be able to untangle that. The options you have then are basically to design measures around very narrow age groups or to promote people to actually use the data that come in to provide the
13 14 15 16 17 18	going to really sort of be able to untangle that. The options you have then are basically to design measures around very narrow age groups or to promote people to actually use the data that come in to provide the information on the aggregate measure and to
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	going to really sort of be able to untangle that. The options you have then are basically to design measures around very narrow age groups or to promote people to actually use the data that come in to provide the information on the aggregate measure and to stratify and to look within those age groups.
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	going to really sort of be able to untangle that. The options you have then are basically to design measures around very narrow age groups or to promote people to actually use the data that come in to provide the information on the aggregate measure and to stratify and to look within those age groups. That's clearly feasible through the reporting

1	with Mathematica that just completed a tool
2	kit for states how to use their data better
3	and to go beyond just the use of those
4	aggregate measures. CMS supported that work.
5	So there, clearly, we're trying to
6	move the field in that direction. And that's
7	the current mechanism that's currently,
8	basically, being employed, to say, you know,
9	we have an aggregate measure. It's got a
10	historic precedence.
11	It does show considerable
12	variation across state programs at least and
13	differences between different segments of the
14	population, but it in the aggregate itself,
15	you know, it's going to have a lot of
16	different underlying components, one of which
17	we know is age.
18	And to your point in terms of
19	caries risk, you know, one of the major
20	factors in caries risk is the composition of
21	the bacteria and the amounts of certain types
22	of bacteria.

1	The other that's going to vary
2	very much, and I think on a developmental
3	stage, is going to be things like diet which
4	is another major sort of significant
5	component.
6	Really, you know, there's a
7	clinical science aspect of that that needs to
8	be developed, but in the measures world, I
9	think, using age stratification is probably as
10	good as we're going to get at this stage of
11	the ability to collect data and to report it
12	and analyze it.
13	MS. CHIANG: Yes, so thank you. I
14	think the reason why I'm asking these
15	questions because that impacts how I'm going
16	to vote, and the feasibility versus the
17	validity of the recommendation.
18	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: And if I might
19	just add on, if you look at feasibility from
20	a data collection standpoint, again all these
21	are standard CDT codes, very similar to the
22	previous measure so it will be collected.

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1	In terms of the younger age group
2	where you mentioned, you know, pediatricians
3	referring, there is a Bright Futures guideline
4	which says, you know, refer, especially when
5	you do the risk assessment. AAP is definitely
6	behind risk assessment. Do the risk
7	assessment and refer.
8	So that is part of the Bright
9	Futures guidelines, so part of this measure
10	will be to promote within the system that
11	interaction between the medical-dental field
12	to make this happen as a system.
13	There are about 108 million kids
14	who see the physician and don't see the
15	dentist, 27 million that see a dentist don't
16	see a physician. So there's a lot of, you
17	know, coordination that can happen between,
18	and we're hoping that measures like this will
19	actually promote that kind of referral and a
20	dental home being established.
21	MR. VENKATESH: I guess sort of
22	related to the under age 6 age group there's

1	a line in here, where in the consensus
2	guidelines they conclude that for the under 6
3	age group the only fluoride that would be
4	recommended is the 2.6 percent and that for
5	the other forms the harms would outweigh the
6	benefits.
7	Will the measure be able to
8	incorporate that in, or is there, could you
9	potentially in that under 6 age group have
10	high performance but be giving fluorides that
11	are potentially harmful?
12	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The use of
13	varnish is probably the most prevalent. The
14	gel, and Dr. Inge can comment on this in terms
15	of the claims they receive, it's really very,
16	very low in terms of how much it's used. The
17	coating as such does not discriminate between
18	the type of fluoride that's applied, but
19	varnish is the most common that's used.
20	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay, if there are
21	no further questions we should oh.
22	MR. VALDEZ: I was just wanting to

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1	make sure, because our conversation went
2	beyond our script. So I was just following
3	along and letting it go because the
4	conversation is probably the most important.
5	But your script has us voting
6	evidence and then I was going to talk about
7	something else and then we're going do another
8	vote before we even leave 1. Okay, just
9	checking.
10	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. So we'll
11	vote on the evidence. Kaitlynn, could you put
12	that evidence on, please?
13	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Importance to
14	measure and report 1a, evidence. Importance
15	to measure and report 1a, evidence structure,
16	process and intermediate outcome. 1 is high,
17	2 is moderate, 3 is low, 4 is insufficient
18	evidence, 5 is insufficient evidence with
19	exception. Voting begins now.
20	We're still waiting for one more
21	vote. Okay, we now have all of our votes and
22	voting is closed. For evidence, there were

1	two votes for high, 15 votes for moderate, one
2	vote for low, one vote for insufficient
3	evidence, and one vote for insufficient
4	evidence with exception.
5	MR. VALDEZ: Our next voting area
6	is looking at opportunity for improvement.
7	We'll have some presentation and then
8	discussion.
9	The presenters, or the developers
10	presented data that was fairly convincing to
11	the committee, or to the workgroup, that there
12	were, in fact, disparities in oral health
13	status and in the use of oral health services
14	such as these.
15	The evidence was also presented
16	about disparities by race and ethnicity,
17	geographic location and other factors that
18	were using data from several Medicaid and CHIP
19	programs in the state of Texas and in Florida
20	where they demonstrated both the differences
21	among the individuals but also among the
22	different programs. The evidence was

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1	considered moderate by the workgroup.
2	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you. Any
3	discussion on this measure? Okay.
4	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Importance to
5	measure and report 1b, performance gap. One
6	is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low, and 4 is
7	insufficient. Voting begins now.
8	Still waiting for one vote. Now
9	all of our votes are in, voting is closed.
10	For performance gaps there were six votes for
11	high, 14 votes for moderate, zero votes for
12	low, and zero votes for insufficient.
13	MR. VALDEZ: The next area is
14	priority, and this measure clearly looks at
15	whether or not children over a wide range, 1
16	to 21, are in fact receiving a service that is
17	preventive in nature.
18	And most of the workgroup
19	committee members thought that in fact this
20	was an important issue, however, there was
21	some question whether or not there are other
22	sources of fluoride that in fact could serve

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1	similar kinds of preventive needs in
2	populations that may or may not be accounted
3	for.
4	And the question was raised about
5	whether or not there was simply this kind of
6	service, but everybody was in fairly good
7	accord that this was a high priority issue.
8	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
9	discussion on priority? Okay, Kaitlynn, let's
10	do the vote please.
11	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Importance to
12	measure and report 1c, high priority. One is
13	high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low, and 4 is
14	insufficient, and voting begins now.
15	And we're waiting for one more
16	vote. We now have all of the votes and voting
17	is now closed. There were 13 votes for high,
18	seven votes for moderate, zero votes for low,
19	and zero votes for insufficient.
20	MR. VALDEZ: The next section that
21	we're taking up has to do with reliability
22	regarding specifications and reliability

1	testing. The measure is well defined, relies
2	on the same data we've been talking about all
3	morning and afternoon.
4	The reliability testing also is
5	considered of high value and came across from
6	multiple programs as well as looking at
7	different time frames.
8	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
9	discussion on this measure? Yes, John?
10	MR. AUERBACH: You know, this is a
11	situation where I am concerned about the age
12	range. And so I would be, I'm torn about sort
13	of voting favorably versus not, just because
14	I would feel more comfortable if it was a
15	range that was narrower.
16	So that's more of an observation
17	and I guess the guidelines would just be
18	struggle with that and come out with what you
19	feel is the right vote. But since you were
20	saying you wanted some notation on what people
21	were observing, I just wanted to say that that
22	was one of those things that is challenging.

1	MS. MUNTHALI: We'll make sure we
2	capture that in the report. Perhaps you could
3	also make a recommendation that the next time
4	the measure is up for maintenance review, you
5	know, the developer could change age of the
6	age range or now or whatever the guidelines
7	are saying, because it is supported by the
8	guidelines.
9	So I guess the committee can
10	discuss that, if you'll allow that, Tom and
11	Sarah.
12	MS. SAMPSEL: Is that something
13	the committee would like to recommend? Eric,
14	did you have a comment on the age issue?
15	MR. BAER: I have a comment.
16	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay.
17	MR. BAER: With respect to the
18	age, I live in the Medicaid world therefore
19	this is the age group that is defined and this
20	is the age group. That aside, would changing
21	the age range have any effect on harmonization
22	with other efforts? Meaning, you know, a lot

1	of the CMS maybe I'm not sure. I'm brand
2	new to this.
3	I'm not sure what harmonization
4	is, but if it's bumping it up against other
5	measures that might be out there already, CMS
6	has a lot of measures out there already for
7	this EPSDT age range which happens to be up to
8	the age of 21. So, starting at 1. Yes.
9	MS. SAMPSEL: That's a really
10	important consideration is that consistency
11	and harmonization across other measures
12	looking at that same population, so that's a
13	very good point.
14	MR. SALIVE: Well, I didn't hear a
15	compelling reason to change the age range, so
16	I'm speaking against that. I mean I think,
17	you know, there's a lot of recommended
18	treatment with these topical fluorides under
19	the age of 6 that I saw, and so it seems like
20	why are we going to tinker with this?
21	MR. FRANCE: Well, at the risk of
22	going to a different area, I was looking at

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1	the validity issue versus reliability and
2	concern about missing data.
3	So it doesn't capture of course
4	what's happening in pediatrics, and so if it's
5	supposed to be a reflection of the use of
6	varnishes among children or is interpreted as
7	such, it will underestimate its use since it's
8	not harmonizing or summing with what's
9	happening in pediatric and the medicine
10	offices.
11	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Again I want to
12	go back to Dr. Crall's comment. We had to
13	balance this need to capture everything versus
14	make the measure usable for a Medicaid program
15	where the financing system is different
16	between medical and dental.
17	As Dr. Crall pointed out, the kids
18	who actually only get oral health services is
19	simply three percent of the population. So
20	given that our focus was, okay, taking that
21	into consideration, do we want a usable
22	measure that programs can use and report on

1	and actually be comparable broadly between
2	Medicaid, commercial and such?
3	And so that's the reason why we
4	said, you know what, this is the way to go.
5	MR. MCINERNEY: If I remember our
6	guidelines, we are supposed to vote on the
7	measure as it has been specified. I don't
8	think we're allowed to change the measure at
9	this point. We can recommend that in the
10	future the measure be changed. Is that
11	correct?
11 12	correct? MS. BURSTIN: At times when there
12	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there
12 13	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there are sort of very narrow things that come up in
12 13 14	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there are sort of very narrow things that come up in committees, that can be a negotiation between
12 13 14 15	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there are sort of very narrow things that come up in committees, that can be a negotiation between the developer and the committee. But
12 13 14 15 16	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there are sort of very narrow things that come up in committees, that can be a negotiation between the developer and the committee. But obviously narrow things with complete
12 13 14 15 16 17	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there are sort of very narrow things that come up in committees, that can be a negotiation between the developer and the committee. But obviously narrow things with complete agreement on both sides.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there are sort of very narrow things that come up in committees, that can be a negotiation between the developer and the committee. But obviously narrow things with complete agreement on both sides. MR. BIALEK: It looks like the
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there are sort of very narrow things that come up in committees, that can be a negotiation between the developer and the committee. But obviously narrow things with complete agreement on both sides. MR. BIALEK: It looks like the workgroup raised a couple of validity issues
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	MS. BURSTIN: At times when there are sort of very narrow things that come up in committees, that can be a negotiation between the developer and the committee. But obviously narrow things with complete agreement on both sides. MR. BIALEK: It looks like the workgroup raised a couple of validity issues beyond the age group. And there's a statement

1	criterion. And I'm wondering if the workgroup
2	can speak to that.
3	MR. VALDEZ: That's our next topic
4	and discussion for voting. We're focused on
5	reliability.
6	MR. MCINERNEY: We'll do the
7	reliability first, then we'll move to
8	MR. BIALEK: No problem.
9	MR. MCINERNEY: validity.
10	Okay, I think then we're ready to vote on
11	reliability. Please, Kaitlynn?
12	MR. VENKATESH: So it is a
13	reliability comment as I think about it. In
14	Table 1b.2, you show the performance scores by
15	year. And so when I look at Program 3 from
16	2010 to 2011, it drops 13 percent, from 35 to
17	22. But then when I look at Program 2, for
18	example, it goes up 5, from 22 to 27. Those
19	seems like widely divergent directions for
20	something that's been coded the same between
21	years.
22	And so I'm wondering how reliable

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1	the codes are for the measure, and this gets
2	to a little bit of, this is why I wasn't sure
3	whether to put it in the reliability or the
4	validity side of this. But should we be
5	concerned that we're not measuring what we
6	think we're measuring there?
7	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Could you please
8	point out which form you're looking at? Is it
9	the measure testing form?
10	MR. VENKATESH: The measure
11	testing form, sub-criteria 2a2 to 2b2 to 2b6,
12	that one.
13	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Okay, let me get
14	there.
15	MR. VENKATESH: My concern is that
16	it just jumps so much within a year and in
17	different directions that it's not measuring
18	what it thinks it is.
19	MS. LUCK: What page are you on?
20	MR. VENKATESH: Seventeen of 18.
21	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So we see that
22	in our submission under the section under

1	reliability we don't have any tables listed.
2	MR. VENKATESH: You have it listed
3	under validity. And we want to move the
4	discussion to there, that section, we can have
5	it in that part. I'm fine with that, unless
6	it's because of something you think has
7	something to do with the testing on the
8	reliability side. That's why I asked the
9	question that way.
10	MR. CRALL: Okay, sorry. I think
11	we found the table. Can you just restate that
12	please?
13	MR. VENKATESH: Sure. So Program
14	3 in 2010 has a 35 percent score, right, and
15	then in 2011 drops to 22 percent. It's a big
16	change downwards. Program 2, for example,
17	though in 2010 has a 22 percent score, and in
18	2011 jumps up by five percent.
19	And so when I see fairly large
20	magnitudes of change going in divergent
21	directions, I'm wondering how reliably it's
22	measuring the underlying construct.

1	And so is it because one of those
2	programs did a quality improvement effort and
3	the other one did not? I mean do we have any
4	background context as to why that would
5	happen, or is it simply that there's that much
6	noise in the data year to year?
7	MR. CRALL: Well, I may have
8	always been, but I'm clearly right now, I'm
9	completely blind as to what those programs
10	represent. Jill may actually know what
11	programs there are.
12	I think the fact that in two out
13	of the three they were fairly similar and, you
14	know, there was an incremental increase from
15	the 2010 to the 2011 year certainly speaks,
16	you know, gave us some degree of confidence
17	that in fact that they're measuring in a
18	fairly reliable way.
19	The reason for that difference in
20	that one program from one year to the next, I
21	personally am not sure what that is, you know,
22	the reason for that. Jill, do you happen to

1	know what Program 1, 2, and 3?
2	(Off microphone comments)
3	MR. CRALL: Okay, 1 is Texas
4	Medicaid, 2 is Florida CHIP, 3 is commercial.
5	So the one thing that I know in terms of the
6	testing is that the data we had for commercial
7	actually is relatively small.
8	You know, we actually, we wanted
9	to bring that in even though that isn't the
10	primary sort of data source that the
11	contractor had available, but we did want to
12	bring in some information from a commercial
13	side to look at, test it across all the
14	different sectors.
15	So it possibly is a small numbers
16	piece that could differ from one year to the
17	next. If it had gone the other way I don't
18	think it would have even been quite so much of
19	a concern. Whether or not there's some policy
20	changes in that commercial plans or whether
21	the composition of those commercial plans that
22	are aggregated there change from one year to

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1	the next, I don't know. We don't know.
2	So the composition within the CHIP
3	program and within the Medicaid program, the
4	other two that held fairly consistent, I
5	think, would be reasonably consistent over
6	years. But the composition of what's in the
7	commercial one may introduce the variability.
8	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay, I think
9	we're ready for the vote. Kaitlynn, please?
10	Thank you.
11	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Scientific
12	acceptability of measure properties
13	reliability. One is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is
14	low, and 4 is insufficient. And voting
15	starts.
16	We're still waiting for two votes.
17	We have all of the votes. And there were 15
18	votes for high, 13 votes for moderate, three
19	votes for low, and one vote for insufficient.
20	MS. KHAN: I think it's three
21	votes for high. Yes.
22	MR. VALDEZ: Okay, now we get to

1	take on validity, which was the question
2	several people brought up in our last
3	discussion and rightly so, because the
4	workgroup also had some concerns on the
5	validity side.
6	Most of it, I'm going to cut to
7	the quick, were around the confidence that the
8	performance measure, in fact, was a valid
9	indicator of quality. And in large part
10	because most of this was on professional
11	guideline recommendations and not on any
12	studies that we had presented, as I recall.
13	But David, you'll have to help me
14	on this one because my memory is failing.
15	MR. MCINERNEY: Do you have a
16	comment on validity, Arjun? No further
17	comments on validity? All right. Oh, I'm
18	sorry, you do.
19	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Yes, sorry. I
20	do want to talk about the fact that in our
21	evidence forum in terms of the comment about,
22	you know, connection to the outcomes, we did

1	talk about the Cochrane Reviews as well as the
2	evidence based guidelines.
3	We did include an image from the
4	Cochrane Review which had run a meta-analysis
5	to show the impact on the outcome. So just
6	wanted to put that on the table. Thank you.
7	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For validity,
8	1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low, and 4 is
9	insufficient. You can start voting.
10	There's one vote for high, 11
11	votes for moderate, seven votes for low, and
12	one vote for insufficient.
13	MS. MUNTHALI: So what we're
14	discussing is what we need to reach consensus,
15	and so we're just at that low threshold of 60
16	percent and so we will proceed.
17	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay.
18	MR. VALDEZ: The next section is
19	feasibility. The designers demonstrated that
20	it was feasible using data from multiple
21	programs, multiple states, and commercial
22	plans using the data that we've been talking

1	about all afternoon. So the workgroup had no
2	additional comments to make.
3	MR. MCINERNEY: Any discussion on
4	the feasibility? Okay.
5	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
6	feasibility, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is
7	low, and 4 is insufficient. And voting starts
8	now. All the votes are in and voting is now
9	closed. For feasibility there were ten votes
10	for high, ten votes for moderate, zero votes
11	for low, and zero votes for insufficient.
12	MR. VALDEZ: The next section is
12 13	MR. VALDEZ: The next section is usability and use. The measure is currently
13	usability and use. The measure is currently
13 14	usability and use. The measure is currently in use in Texas and in Florida in
13 14 15	usability and use. The measure is currently in use in Texas and in Florida in Medicaid/CHIP programs, and I think it was
13 14 15 16	usability and use. The measure is currently in use in Texas and in Florida in Medicaid/CHIP programs, and I think it was also a commercial plan. There was no
13 14 15 16 17	usability and use. The measure is currently in use in Texas and in Florida in Medicaid/CHIP programs, and I think it was also a commercial plan. There was no information particularly presented with regard
13 14 15 16 17 18	usability and use. The measure is currently in use in Texas and in Florida in Medicaid/CHIP programs, and I think it was also a commercial plan. There was no information particularly presented with regard to improvement over time and there were no
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	usability and use. The measure is currently in use in Texas and in Florida in Medicaid/CHIP programs, and I think it was also a commercial plan. There was no information particularly presented with regard to improvement over time and there were no other additional comments by the workgroup.

1	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For usability
2	and use, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low,
3	and 4 is insufficient information. And you
4	can start voting. Okay, we now have all of
5	our votes and voting is closed.
6	For usability and use there were
7	six votes for high, ten votes for moderate,
8	two votes for low, and two votes for
9	insufficient information.
10	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay, are we ready
11	to vote on the whole measure as a pass or no
12	pass for endorsement? Any further comments on
13	this measure before we vote?
14	MS. MUNTHALI: We just wanted to,
15	before you vote on overall endorsement if you
16	had any comments, since feasibility was split
17	50/50, we would like to reflect any viewpoints
18	that you would like us to include in the
19	report, if there are any comments for the
20	committee.
21	MR. VENKATESH: I would just add
22	that on 4b, I think, is the criteria about

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1	improvement and progress and we only have
2	those two years of data. And so if, in fact,
3	it's not because of substantial differences in
4	the populations between the two, it's very
5	possible that we don't know from actually
6	monitoring progress when you see change
7	between two years.
8	And so I would say in the report
9	that this is a measure that needs a lot of
10	surveillance to see what the pattern is in a
11	fixed or more set to find a denominator over
12	time. Because if it continues to have that
13	much noise to it, it really wouldn't meet
14	criteria.
15	MR. MCINERNEY: Any other
16	comments? Kaitlynn?
17	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Overall
18	suitability for endorsement, 1 is yes, and
19	MS. CHIANG: I think that the
20	program itself makes sense. I just am
21	concerned about some of these things that
22	we're discussing.

1	So I guess I would like to hear
2	some of the thoughts of maybe some of the
3	other committee members, or maybe the
4	developers could provide a little bit of
5	guidance.
6	I don't know if the other people
7	feel that way, but I personally think that
8	this is a good program but I have concerns
9	about that, some of the things that we've
10	discussed.
11	MR. CRALL: Along the last point
12	that was raised, clearly these measures
13	generally are looked at for longer trends than
14	just from one year to the next.
15	And I think the first thing either
16	CMS or a state Medicaid program, or anyone who
17	is in a position of being held accountable, if
18	they saw a significant change in reporting
19	from one year to the next in terms of
20	performance, the first thing they would do, I
21	would think, would be to question data
22	quality, and was there systematic in the input

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1	of the data that, you know, perhaps omitted
2	something from one year to the next.
3	In the examples that we had, we
4	had again, we had a Medicaid program that the
5	population's fairly consistent over time and
6	the administration of the program. We have a
7	CHIP program that is consistent over time.
8	The one piece that we had which
9	showed a significant change from one year to
10	the next was in an aggregate of commercial,
11	which is sort of an artificial sort of sector,
12	really, that we created.
12 13	really, that we created. I mean it's an important sector,
13	I mean it's an important sector,
13 14	I mean it's an important sector, don't get me wrong, in terms of what I'm
13 14 15	I mean it's an important sector, don't get me wrong, in terms of what I'm saying, but that I think that, you know, that
13 14 15 16	I mean it's an important sector, don't get me wrong, in terms of what I'm saying, but that I think that, you know, that longer trend analysis, it's a very valid
13 14 15 16 17	I mean it's an important sector, don't get me wrong, in terms of what I'm saying, but that I think that, you know, that longer trend analysis, it's a very valid point. You don't look at these things from
13 14 15 16 17 18	I mean it's an important sector, don't get me wrong, in terms of what I'm saying, but that I think that, you know, that longer trend analysis, it's a very valid point. You don't look at these things from one year to the next and make those decisions.
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	I mean it's an important sector, don't get me wrong, in terms of what I'm saying, but that I think that, you know, that longer trend analysis, it's a very valid point. You don't look at these things from one year to the next and make those decisions. The other important part is that
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	I mean it's an important sector, don't get me wrong, in terms of what I'm saying, but that I think that, you know, that longer trend analysis, it's a very valid point. You don't look at these things from one year to the next and make those decisions. The other important part is that if you take it down the next level then,

1	benefits, what you're looking for is variation
2	across the various plans who are contracted to
3	administer those benefits and capture a
4	variation there is important.
5	But again, looking in one year, I
6	don't think people are in a decision making
7	capacity looking to go from one year to the
8	next. Generally there is a longer time period
9	where you would be able to make sure that the
10	data, all the data was entered in and that it
11	was truly a difference or a change in
12	performance or the impact of some policy
13	change as opposed to just a data submission
14	issue.
15	MR. AUERBACH: Just in this spirit
16	of making recommendations for the future, I
17	would say if this comes, when this comes up
18	again I would really look at that age
19	indicator. I think what you're going to find
20	is it's a very different Medicaid population
21	when you get into the teen years because
22	Medicaid eligibility is only due for children

1	who are dependent.
2	And what you see in the drop-off
3	of the numbers is you're just measuring a
4	really different cohort under Medicaid in the
5	upper teen years. And so the ones who are
6	eligible then tend to be more disabled because
7	they're not out in the work force and
8	independent.
9	And so, but measure it. I mean,
10	you know, if it's too late to sort of figure
11	that out, I would just say pay attention to
12	that so that you don't, because I think what
13	we'll find is Medicaid directors discount
14	those upper years and just say these are not
15	the same. It's not the same cohort we're
16	measuring.
17	So I think if we pay attention to
18	that, well, maybe the next time it comes up
19	you can adjust for that.
20	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Definitely from
21	a developer standpoint these are all extremely
22	useful comments. I'm taking notes in terms

1	of, you know, the age cohorts as well as the
2	question about monitoring over time and
3	seeing, really, how the measure does. So
4	we'll definitely keep that in mind.
5	MR. MCINERNEY: I think we can say
6	oh. Go ahead, Ron.
7	MR. BIALEK: I just wanted to
8	raise the potential harm, just put it out
9	there, and this may be overstating it but I
10	just want to put it out there.
11	That when you have an aggregate
12	population like this and if you start holding
13	the plans accountable for increase in the
14	percentages, you may encourage the plans to
15	reach out to those who are easiest to reach,
16	both age group as well as socioeconomic group
17	as well as race and ethnicity, et cetera. So
18	you could actually increase your percentage,
19	and at the same time increase your disparity,
20	but be hiding the disparity here because we
21	have such a large group.
22	And I just wanted to put that out

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1	there because I think it's an important
2	consideration for us.
3	MR. MCINERNEY: That's a great
4	point, Ron. And I think hopefully as you're
5	going forward in time you'll try and observe
6	and see if you can see that effect by looking
7	at the sociodemographic characteristics of
8	those who've had the varnish applied and those
9	who haven't.
10	As I hear the discussion I have a
11	perception that many folks feel this is a
12	somewhat immature measure that needs some work
13	and some time for us to be feeling it's a
14	little bit more reliable.
15	But I don't think that should
16	influence our vote tremendously, it's just
17	something for the developers to note. So if
18	there's no further oh, I'm sorry. David?
19	MR. KROL: Just to respond to Ron.
20	Though the approach, since all of these
21	children are at risk, at elevated risk, you'll
22	still be reaching out to kids with elevated

1	risk.
2	So yes, there may be some. So say
3	I target a certain subset of children at
4	elevated risk, I'm still targeting children at
5	elevated risk. It's not like I would target
6	the well and versus the unwell, or the
7	diseased versus the not diseased.
8	That's not an issue here, and that
9	I'd be much more concerned about than say, you
10	know, I want to try to reach the kids that
11	aren't being reached but are at high risk.
12	It's a subtle but extremely important, you may
13	still find disparities within those at
14	elevated risk, but they're all at elevated
15	risk.
16	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay, Kaitlynn, I
17	think we're now ready for the final vote on
18	this measure, please.
19	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Overall
20	suitability for endorsement, 1 is yes and 2 is
21	no. And you can now vote.
22	Now have all of the measures and

1	voting's closed. For suitability for
2	endorsement there were 17 votes for yes and
3	three votes for no. So for Measure 2528
4	Prevention Topical Fluoride for Children with
5	Elevated Caries Risk, Dental Services, the
6	measure passes.
7	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. We're now
8	moving to 2511, Utilization of Services,
9	Dental Services. I haven't found that one
10	yet, frankly.
11	(Off microphone comments)
12	MR. MCINERNEY: And who would like
13	to discuss this? Roberta or Chisara? Robert,
14	I mean.
15	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Just a very
16	quick overview. This is a basic health
17	services measure in terms of simply seeing,
18	you know, the utilization with the program, so
19	any dental service just simply gets captured.
20	The denominator is anyone enrolled in the
21	program.
22	And so this is the type of measure

1	that we were talking about in terms of, you
2	know, capturing that access issue that we
3	mentioned with the other measures.
4	The one unique thing about this
5	measure that is not there with any of the
6	other six measure is that it does compete with
7	a currently endorsed measure, so we would be
8	happy to answer any questions as to why we
9	developed this measure knowing that there is
10	a currently endorsed NQF measure when we come
11	to that criteria.
12	MR. VALDEZ: Okay, here we go
13	again. The title to the measure is
14	Utilization of Services, Dental Services, and
15	I'll just point out that the people raised
16	some concerns about the title of the measure
17	since this is a measure not in general of
18	dental services but focused on children. So
19	that should just be noted.
20	With regard to evidence, the
21	developers presented a series of arguments
22	about access to care and access to care being

1 the gateway to really understanding quality of 2 care and program performance. 3 What else came up during that 4 discussion? The only other thing that came up during the discussion was the fact that this 5 is a gateway measure to any kind of health 6 7 services research activity. MS. SAMPSEL: Chisara, did you 8 9 have anything? We had started 2511 while you 10 were out of the room and now chewing 11 something, so it seems appropriate to ask if 12 you had anything to add. 13 MS. ASOMUGHA: For the evidence section alone? 14 15 MS. SAMPSEL: We're at just the very beginning of this one. 16 17 MS. ASOMUGHA: No, nothing else to add. 18 19 MR. MCINERNEY: Any other 20 discussion? Okay, Kaitlynn, let's do the 21 first vote on evidence, please. 22 MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: 1a, evidence,

1	structure, process, intermediate outcome. 1
2	is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low, 4 is
3	insufficient evidence, 5 is insufficient
4	evidence with exception. And you can start
5	voting now.
6	We are just waiting on one more
7	vote. Oh, okay, sorry. All the votes are in.
8	Evidence, there were nine votes for high,
9	moderate there were nine votes, for low there
10	was one vote, and for insufficient evidence
11	there was one vote.
12	MR. VALDEZ: The next section is
13	opportunity for improvement. The developers
14	presented information about differential
15	access to services, oral health services,
16	dental services in particular through a
17	
	variety of studies in the literature. The
18	variety of studies in the literature. The workgroup rated it moderate, moderate-high.
18 19	
	workgroup rated it moderate, moderate-high.
19	workgroup rated it moderate, moderate-high. MR. MCINERNEY: Any discussion on
19 20	workgroup rated it moderate, moderate-high. MR. MCINERNEY: Any discussion on this measure? Okay, Kaitlynn. Thank you.

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1	is low, and 4 is insufficient, and you can
2	start voting.
3	We have all the votes and voting
4	is closed. For performance gap there were 18
5	votes for high, two votes for moderate, zero
6	votes for low, and zero votes for
7	insufficient.
8	MR. VALDEZ: Priority. With
9	regard to priority, the developers presented
10	information on utilization barriers, which
11	seemed to be pretty low, utilization, that is.
12	The workgroup discussed the issue
13	and really identified and said while this
14	measure is not really a measure of quality, it
15	is really the gateway to assessing quality,
16	understanding whether or not any one of these
17	children receive services are not. It's a
18	signal certainly to payors and others whether
19	the issue is a serious issue for concern or
20	not.
21	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
22	discussion on priority? Okay, Kaitlynn,

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1	please.
2	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For higher
3	priority, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low,
4	and 4 is insufficient, and voting is open.
5	Okay, all the votes are in and voting is now
6	closed.
7	There were 16 votes for high, four
8	votes for moderate, zero votes for low, and
9	zero votes for insufficient.
10	MR. VALDEZ: The next section is
11	reliability. Certainly defining the numerator
12	was fairly easy. The question is whether a
13	child received any services on the dental
14	side, and the denominator was the population
15	enrolled in the health plan or program. The
16	reliability testing met the standards that the
17	working group found acceptable.
18	MR. MCINERNEY: Further comments
19	on the reliability? Okay, Kaitlynn, please.
20	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
21	reliability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is
22	low, and 4 is insufficient, and voting is now

1	open. And we're still waiting for one vote.
2	All of the votes are now in and
3	voting is closed. For reliability, there were
4	12 votes for high, seven votes for moderate,
5	one vote for low, and zero votes for
6	insufficient.
7	MR. VALDEZ: With regard to
8	validity, the working group raised the same
9	questions that we raised earlier, having to do
10	with the splitting off of use of oral health
11	or dental services focused on who the provider
12	was rather than whether the child or children
13	in the program received the services.
14	This is the same issue we've
15	talked about and the developers have said they
16	have parallel measures and sort of either/or
17	measures as well that we've learned about
18	today.
19	There were some other questions
20	about the validity. Let's see. There was
21	some questions about whether the service was
22	needed or not and whether that should be taken

1	into account in looking at whether children
2	receive services, given that we're looking at
3	children of all ages and any service.
4	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
5	discussion on validity? Okay, we'll vote
6	please.
7	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For validity,
8	1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low, 4 is
9	insufficient, and voting is open.
10	All votes are in and voting is now
11	closed. For validity, there were six votes
12	for high, 12 votes for moderate, two votes for
13	low, and zero votes for insufficient.
14	MR. VALDEZ: With regard to
15	feasibility, the same data sources we've been
16	looking at today were used for this particular
17	measure across several Medicaid and CHIP
18	programs in two states and a commercial plan.
19	No other questions were raised
20	other than those about using administrative
21	claims for these kinds of activities in
22	populations.

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1	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you. Any
2	further discussion on feasibility? All right,
3	let's vote.
4	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
5	feasibility, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is
6	low, and 4 is insufficient, and voting is now
7	open. And we're waiting for one more vote.
8	Okay, all the votes are in and
9	voting is now closed. For feasibility, there
10	were 16 votes for high, four votes for
11	moderate, zero votes for low, and zero votes
12	for insufficient.
13	MR. VALDEZ: With regard to use,
14	the current measure is currently being used in
15	two states and two programs. No, it's being
16	used in Texas, CHIP and Medicaid, and also
17	being used by CMS. It's clearly an indicator
18	of access to care that people considered
19	fundamental.
20	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
21	discussion on usability? Whoa. All right,
22	let's vote please.

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1	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For usability
2	and use, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low,
3	and 4 is insufficient information. Voting is
4	now open.
5	And we're still waiting for two
6	more responses. All of the votes are in and
7	voting is now closed. For usability and use,
8	we have 14 votes for high, six votes for
9	moderate, zero votes for low, and zero votes
10	for insufficient information.
11	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay, we're now
12	ready to vote on whether to adopt this
13	measure, or endorse this measure I should say.
14	Any last minute comments before we vote on the
15	suitability for endorsement? Oh, this is
16	really good. All right, let's vote.
17	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For overall
18	suitability for endorsement, 1 is yes and 2 is
19	no. Voting is open.
20	And we're still waiting for two
21	more responses. All votes are in and voting
22	is now closed. For overall suitability for

1	endorsement, Measure 2511, Utilization of
2	Services, Dental Services had 19 votes for yes
3	and one vote for no. The measure passes.
4	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you,
5	everyone. I think we're hitting our stride
6	here. Okay, the next measure for
7	MS. SAMPSEL: Actually, Tom, we're
8	going to take a break. We're seeing a lot of
9	people walk around, so kind of an indication
10	folks might need a break.
11	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. It's 2:10,
12	take a what, ten-minute break. Get back at
13	2:20, please.
14	(Whereupon, the foregoing matter
15	went off the record at 2:10 p.m. and went back
16	on the record at 2:19 p.m.)
17	MR. MCINERNEY: 2517, Page 74 in
18	the workbook. The measure title is Oral
19	Evaluation Dental Services.
20	And the description, brief
21	description of the measure is percentage of
22	enrolled under children under 21 years who

1	received a comprehensive or periodic oral
2	evaluation within the reporting year. Would
3	the measure developer like to say anything
4	about this one?
5	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Just that,
6	again, it's based on the same data sources, so
7	no complications here in terms of risk or
8	anything. But the evidence is weak and we
9	recognize that.
10	And like I, like we said at the
11	beginning of the session this morning, this is
12	based on the, this is evidence and form. So
13	what is available and what the dental
14	community feels is required in terms or
15	establishing a dental home.
16	The oral evaluation is simply the
17	procedure that's used as a marker to see
18	whether kids are actually in the dental home.
19	MR. CRALL: And I think the only
20	thing I would add is that this is, I think, an
21	effort on our part to sort of push the
22	envelope just a bit. There's certainly, at

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1	the last measure that you approved, looks at
2	whether a child gets any services.
3	And, you know, clearly that can
4	span the entire gambit, it really doesn't give
5	us a good indicator of whether or not that
6	service was for an emergency visit. There are
7	other sort of measures that look at the full
8	gamut of diagnostic procedures where, again,
9	if a child gets one radiograph that counts.
10	In this case we really are looking
11	for something, putting forward something that
12	we believe is more of a indicator of a dental
13	home or a regular and ongoing use of services.
14	And inherent in the use of the codes for this
15	measure is the development of a treatment
16	plan.
17	So this at least, those two codes
18	basically say, all right, this child got a
19	full assessment of their oral health status
20	and the treatment plan was developed. That's
21	what's inherent in the use of the code.
22	And so to us that's a marker that,

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1	okay, someone is actually, this child is
2	really entering the sort of mainstream of oral
3	healthcare not on some episodic or sporadic
4	basis.
5	There are limitations both in
6	terms of, you know, one measured in the data.
7	And there, as Christian indicated, we know in
8	terms of the evidence. But that's the context
9	in which we're trying to use this measure
10	along with the other measures.
11	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you. Renee
12	or Ron, who, which of you wants to lead the
13	discussion? Oh, David, did you?
14	MR. KROL: Just to, I think you
15	answered, Jim, I just wanted to make sure I
16	understand it correctly.
17	So this measure is essentially a
18	subset of the previous measure? This is a
19	more specific, this is one of the many
20	potential services that could have been
21	utilized in the previous measure, is that
22	right? Okay.

1	And then I guess I'll hear this
2	from Ron or Renee, is the evidence that goes
3	from the measure, or the measure to the
4	outcome, that connects the measure to the
5	outcome?
6	I would assume that in the review,
7	in the previous one there was some evidence
8	that showed any service received lead to a
9	healthier, lead to an outcome. And then now
10	we'll hear that just having the oral health
11	evaluation, the oral evaluation actually is
12	connected to an outcome, right?
13	That's what we would expect to
13 14	That's what we would expect to see. We would expect to see evidence that in
14	see. We would expect to see evidence that in
14 15	see. We would expect to see evidence that in the previous one, and I guess I should have
14 15 16	see. We would expect to see evidence that in the previous one, and I guess I should have asked this previously because it's going to
14 15 16 17	see. We would expect to see evidence that in the previous one, and I guess I should have asked this previously because it's going to come up in the continuity, my review of
14 15 16 17 18	see. We would expect to see evidence that in the previous one, and I guess I should have asked this previously because it's going to come up in the continuity, my review of continuity, that any dental service will lead
14 15 16 17 18 19	see. We would expect to see evidence that in the previous one, and I guess I should have asked this previously because it's going to come up in the continuity, my review of continuity, that any dental service will lead to a, presumably, an improved health outcome.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	see. We would expect to see evidence that in the previous one, and I guess I should have asked this previously because it's going to come up in the continuity, my review of continuity, that any dental service will lead to a, presumably, an improved health outcome. And the evidence shows that.

1	having an oral health evaluation with the
2	treatment, all that's tied to that, including
3	the treatment plan, actually leads to a health
4	outcome.
5	And I ask that question because
6	it's, and I didn't, I apologize that I didn't
7	read probably as deeply into this one as I
8	should have. But my limited knowledge of the
9	evidence is that for instance, fluoride
10	varnish, it's very clear you apply fluoride
11	varnish there's going to be a pretty clear
12	difference or improvement in health outcome.
13	You apply a sealant there's going to be a very
14	clear difference in health outcome.
15	But essentially just in the last
16	one, just walking in the door of the dentist's
17	office actually has a connection to an
18	improved health outcome. I'm assuming that in
19	that one there was evidence and now in this
20	one, just having, just the fact that a dentist
21	did an oral health evaluation actually has an
22	improved, leads to an improved health outcome

1	I think will be very important to see.
2	MR. INGE: Can I comment? Because
3	I actually saw them both very differently.
4	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay.
5	MR. INGE: I see these as process
6	measures and that they do not lead to a
7	specific health outcome or improvement. It's
8	that they are the foundation that enters
9	someone into the system.
10	Access being, I guess you could
11	call it access and outcome, having access to
12	the service is what they actually define.
13	That a patient had an opportunity to access
14	the system.
15	It doesn't define whether or not
16	what occurred and whether or not what occurred
17	moved in a positive direction. It's merely a
18	measure of the ability of, if we're at a plan
19	level, the plan to provide access to
20	healthcare services.
21	That's how I interpret it. I'm
22	not, and developers, please comment. Please.

1	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: And that's
2	exactly what our thought process was. And
3	we'd like to take you back to our kind of
4	framework where you have to follow the patient
5	through the deliver system.
6	And first one is linked to care
7	and then diagnosed and then prevent and then
8	treatment and then healthy. So this sort of
9	address that link to care and the diagnosed
10	component.
11	And so if you know that a child
12	actually has been evaluated and the treatment
13	plan generated, that's the first step. And
14	then next you would want to do, okay, was the
15	treatment plan rendered and completed and is
16	the patient health?
17	So again, it's not a simple
18	measure that can be used on its own, it's part
19	of the bigger picture.
20	MR. INGE: So it would be helpful
21	to learn from the NQF folks, if it exists, and
22	I didn't see one as far as continuity expect

1	for melanoma for NQF, whether, for instance,
2	NQF has shown that a visit to a physician, as
3	a process measure, or a annual physical exam
4	for example, as a process measure actually has
5	been shown and endorsed by NQF as a leading,
6	as a quality measure?
7	Because I, there is maybe not a
8	one-to-one correlation between the two,
9	they're not equivalent necessarily, but it is,
10	I guess this question, just walking into the
11	door of the physicians office lead to a health
12	outcome?
13	And maybe I'm not making sense but
14	I'm just struggling with, I'm struggling with
15	that connection between the measure and the
16	outcome. I know that it's a process measure
17	but
18	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Right.
19	MR. INGE: I don't know what
20	NQF has found in other settings. And when I
21	looked, I'm getting ahead of myself here I
22	apologize.

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1	But when I looked for the terms
2	continuity in NQF's measures, there's nothing
3	that, for instance, that really except for
4	melanoma, and that's really just a data base
5	not necessarily the fact that you've actually
6	had continuity in melanoma care, that there's
7	any quality measures endorsed by NQF.
8	MS. MUNTHALI: That's actually a
9	very good question and it's one that
10	committees struggle with constantly throughout
11	our projects. And what we often remind
12	committees about is that the outcome, you want
13	the process to be proximal to the outcome.
14	And it really should be based in
15	evidence. And so there should be evidence to
16	support, whatever process it is would lead to
17	this outcome. Whether, you know, positive or
18	negative.
19	And so I would, this is a good
20	discussion for the Committee to have. Knowing
21	that this measure is also part of one that
22	seems a little more comprehensive, that's

1	another discussion topic for the Committee to
2	have, so I will just leave it there and if
3	there are other questions.
4	MR. MCINERNEY: Well Mark Twain, a
5	long time ago said, you know, if one visits a
6	physician, one stands about a 50-50 chance of
7	benefitting from the encounter. And some
8	people think that may still be true today.
9	But in seriousness, if I remember
10	correctly, there are some HEDIS measures. And
11	for children at least so many visits in the
12	first year of life to a physician and so many
13	in the second
14	MR. KROL: Yes.
15	MR. MCINERNEY: Right?
16	MR. KROL: Yes.
17	MR. MCINERNEY: And were those NQF
18	endorsed or are they just NCQA HEDIS measures?
19	MS. MUNTHALI: We do have some
20	measures that are based on HEDIS that are
21	endorsed by NQF. Not all of them are though.
22	MR. MCINERNEY: Yes.

1	MR. BIALEK: A number of years ago
2	for the annual physical that was recommended
3	by the medical community. And ultimately the
4	evidence showed that it varied by age groups
5	and so the recommendation changed based on the
6	science.
7	In this instance I don't, I'm not
8	hearing that there's a lot of science around
9	the annual dental visit. It sounded like
10	there was some expert opinion around it which
11	sometimes can be the evidence that we want to
12	use. So that's one comment.
13	The other is that the measure
14	seems to be measuring two different things.
15	One is a comprehensive oral exam
16	and the other is a periodical oral exam. And
17	it doesn't seem appropriate for a measure to
18	have two different things that it's measuring
19	in the one measure.
20	MR. INGE: So if I could respond
21	to that. And a suggestion to the developers
22	that it should be just an oral evaluation.

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1	The descriptors that you have for
2	a comprehensive and a periodic reflect back to
3	the coding that used by dentists to submit
4	those evaluations.
5	So a recommendation would be that
6	the statement would only be for a oral
7	evaluation and that would encompass all of
8	those exam codes and that would make it more
9	clear that it's an access process.
10	MR. SPANGLER: Also, Ron, you
11	could, they could both be one in the same,
12	right? You have a comprehensive periodic,
13	they don't have to be exclusionary right? Or
14	do they?
15	MR. INGE: What occurs at the exam
16	can be the same. But in regards to reporting,
17	we have CDT codes that specify the difference.
18	This is where it gets complicated.
19	So because of the administration, a
20	comprehensive exam is applied to a patient,
21	usually at their first visit to a dentist.
22	Then that patient becomes a patient of record.

1	Based upon the benefit plan
2	design, there are then periodic evaluations
3	that are allowed, and which our profession has
4	adopted themselves to that are reimbursed on
5	a regular basis. Within six months or twice
6	within a benefit period.
7	Then there are limitations on a
8	lot of plans, not so much on Medicaid, where
9	a patient who has been within a practice for
10	a extended period of time, it is assumed that
11	the doctor is managing their evaluations on a
12	regular basis and therefore a comprehensive
13	exam isn't necessary two years later, three
14	later. Because they're in continued care.
15	It's not until there is a break in
16	care of at least a year's time period that a
17	comprehensive can then come back into play.
18	MR. SPANGLER: So it's like an
19	initial visit with a new patient versus a
20	followup visit
21	MR. INGE: Followup
22	MR. SPANGLER: with an

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1	established patient?
2	MR. INGE: Correct.
3	MR. SPANGLER: Okay, I got it.
4	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: As the developer
5	we would be very willing to make that change
6	editorial. We actually started that way and
7	then people started, is this code included,
8	that code included. So we tried to make the
9	description more, but we can do that as an
10	editorial change, definitely.
11	And in terms of the evidence, if I
12	might, there is a distinct difference in the
13	evidence between children and adults. And
14	we're very cognizant of that.
15	So as we are looking at the adult
16	populations we are struggling with a measure
17	like this for the adult population. It's not
18	as straightforward.
19	But for children, because of the
20	growth and development and the guidance and
21	the habit that needs to be formed in the child
22	in terms of maintaining oral health, the

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1	guidelines definitely say, given the limited
2	evidence this is how we would extrapolate it.
3	MR. MCINERNEY: For the annual?
4	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: For the annual.
5	If you actually look at the guidelines,
6	especially the NICE guidelines for dental
7	recall, it's every, if I'm right, it's every
8	three months to at most every 12 months. So
9	we picked the 12 months, we didn't go any
10	MR. SALIVE: So how does this
11	differ from the last one? I mean that's what
12	I don't understand.
13	I was fine with the last one as a
14	measure of access, but this one, you know, it
15	doesn't seem that different to me. I guess
16	maybe I'm just, I mean, I have conceive of,
17	you know, I guess I have that physician
18	analogy and I'm, but I'm not, I'm willing to
19	overlook that.
20	But if there's only three types of
21	visits, prevention, diagnosis or treatment
22	right? And presumably you're going to do

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1	prevention in the pediatric population that's
2	why, the whole point.
3	So saying they have to have
4	diagnosis, you know, here, is that really any
5	different? I mean no one is going to just
6	have treatment, they are going to be looked at
7	for diagnosis first. So how does this really
8	differ from the last one?
9	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Okay, I'll start
10	first and then Dr. Crall can jump in. So we
11	had a lot of problem as we looked at the
12	previous measure and this measure.
13	And the thing is, like Dr. Crall
14	said with the previous measure, if you go to
15	the emergency room it's counted. So the true
16	measure of access is this when you can
17	actually get the child into care.
18	So the previous measure, like we
19	mentioned, is a basic health services measure
20	in terms of utilization of care. Period.
21	This one is actually saying, okay,
22	take out those emergency visits, those problem

forme wights that arrange also has and lates
focus visits that anyone else has and let's
talk about the child actually entering care
and having a dental home. So that we see as
a significant difference between the previous
measure and this measure.
MR. CRALL: And I don't think I
have a whole lot more to add to that. And
again, they tend to be looked at as, okay, we
have a rate or a count for this particular
measure. And then you have other, you know,
context to whether or not the child is
enrolled and did or didn't get services.
But this one really is, as I said,
an effort to move forward to say there is a
logical sequence and a process of care that we
would specify is followed. But unless we have
ways of measuring that we don't know to what
extent that's being followed or how consistent
that's being done across age groups, across
plans, across a variety of things.
And so this is really an effort to
try to put a little finer point on something

1	that is a proxy for that ongoing source of
2	care. There are other frameworks for
3	categorizing groups of procedures or services
4	beyond diagnosis, prevention and treatment, as
5	you said, in the current CMS 416 scope.
6	They just look at the measure that
7	you previously passed, that the child got any
8	service. And then jump to prevention and jump
9	to treatment have nothing in, well there's a
10	new one for all the diagnostic services. But
11	we're looking specifically for an examination
12	which is an indicator to us that that child's
13	oral health has been assessed and that
14	somebody has a plan that then we could, you
15	know, look to follow up and see what their,
16	either subsequent use of services either by
17	periodicity or by nature could be tracked back
18	to that particular marker.
19	MR. VENKATESH: So I guess I'm in
20	complete agreement with Marcel about trying to
21	understand how this is an incrementally
22	different measure with respect to the outcome

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1	of access, if that's what the important thing
2	is.
3	But what concerns me more, I
4	guess, was your answer where I did not realize
5	in the previous measure that emergency
6	department visits would be constituted a form
7	of access. Because I thought the billing
8	codes that you guys had listed here are
9	nothing that I've ever billed before.
10	MR. CRALL: No, I think treatment
11	for an emergent condition by a dentist would
12	be covered. So I think, I think I did hear
13	Kristen say
14	MR. VENKATESH: Okay.
15	MR. CRALL: emergency room,
16	that's because we're working on another set of
17	measures and her mind is over there probably.
18	But no, you're right, that isn't the case.
19	No.
20	MR. VENKATESH: Okay. So if
21	that's the case then it just seems to me like
22	to try to parse out something like prevention
1	separate from diagnosis, separate from
----	--
2	treatment when in reality these things happen
3	concurrently or some of the reasons why these
4	things are important, like you said, teaching
5	about oral health.
6	I can't imagine that you would not
7	discuss oral health and that type of
8	prevention and education would not occur in
9	the context of only a treatment visit that's
10	captured by the previous measure.
11	It seems odd to me that we have to
12	have another measure to just say, did you code
13	for an exam part? And so that's where I guess
14	what I'm getting at is, when we started the
15	day, one of the things Helen brought up was
16	the idea of measure parsimony. Right.
17	Having a limited number of
18	measures that are able to capture the largest
19	amount of information. And in my, what I'm
20	asking here is, by this addition of an
21	incremental measure, right, are we just
22	measuring another thing but not actually

1	getting any other meaningful information for
2	community level health improvement?
3	MR. CRALL: I think it's a
4	legitimate question and again, usual
5	processes, particularly in pediatric offices
6	I can speak to, you know, is that from an
7	efficiency standpoint, absolutely.
8	You know, bringing in a child you
9	basically do the assessment, you develop the
10	treatment plan, you do the preventive services
11	and try to do that all at once because it
12	avoids, you know, and it starts you, if
13	there's any additional treatment that's
14	necessary, it starts you and puts you into a
15	different phase.
16	But again, we can't, if we could
17	make assumptions we wouldn't need measures.
18	So it really does help us to understand the
19	extent to which that child's oral health is
20	being assessed on some periodicity.
21	And treatment plans can get very
22	prolonged. You can have programs where

1	preventative services actually might be
2	provided and not necessarily combined with an
3	examination.
4	We feel because of the importance
5	of the ongoing source of care, which I know
6	we're going to get to in the next measure, and
7	the fact that there is that process of care,
8	that there is an addition to that.
9	And I can only add from a
10	historical standpoint, I chaired an expert
11	panel for NCQA and this is back in the late
12	'90's, this is one of the recommendations that
13	that group made for an additional measure as
14	well. But that's just historic.
15	MR. BAER: From a Medicaid
16	standpoint I agree with this measure because
17	we do have something called a Special Needs
18	Unit and we get calls everyday to make special
19	arraignments to get people care. And we'll
20	get a lot of calls with urgent needs.
21	And those are the ones that we
22	see, you know. They may do us a special

1	favor, but are they going to keep that child
2	long term?
3	So, you know, if that child can
4	stay with that plan long enough to get a
5	comprehensive exam and not a reactive
6	evaluation due to a painful tooth, abscess,
7	you know, whatever, I do feel that that's how
8	I see this from a Medicaid standpoint. It
9	would be helpful for me to see this data.
10	MR. INGE: And actually I was
11	going to repeat the same thing. This
12	eliminates those episodic incidences because
13	unfortunately in dentistry a majority of the
14	care is delivered by general dentists. And it
15	usually, not usually, quite often it's
16	episodic.
17	And it's just getting the patient
18	out of pain. It isn't actually putting them
19	on a path for a better health outcome. By
20	doing an evaluation you at least put them on
21	the path for a better health outcome.
22	MR. MCINERNEY: Now, move into

1	evidence.
2	MR. BAER: Okay. So the evidence,
3	based upon the data sets that we've been
4	talking about all morning, being able to
5	capture this information on a claims database,
6	there are specific codes.
7	And as I recommended that we just
8	refer to the oral evaluations, which will
9	cover all of those exam codes, and be able to
10	identify when a patient has been seen in an
11	office to begin a pathway to better
12	healthcare.
13	Unless there are any other
14	challenges or questions about the dataset?
15	MR. MCINERNEY: Are we ready, oh,
16	here we go, Eric.
17	MR. FRANCE: So it seems like this
18	question is about tracking the recommended
19	interval that children should be seen every
20	year from ages 1 through 21. And I know in
21	the evidence package it refers to that
22	Cochrane review.

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1	Only one randomized trial and they
2	say there's very low quality evidence to know
3	what the right interval is. So from the
4	evidence quality review about what the right
5	interval is, this is saying we don't really
6	know.
7	And as a pediatrician I'm often
8	looking at the HEDIS NCQA about how often
9	should children come in for a visit. And I
10	look at that and say, wow, that's, you know,
11	it's good that they get their shots, they get
12	their developmental screening but the actual
13	need for the visit itself, is that truly an
14	evidence-based intervention?
15	And that's where I can get stuck
16	and say I don't need to pay much attention to
17	that metric because I don't know what the
18	strong evidence is behind it.
19	So this feels similar in the sense
20	that what the right periodicity is for the
21	visit for a child between age 1 and age 21
22	that therefore provides good prevention of

1	caries is not strong.
2	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: And I like I
3	said, like we said this morning, this is a
4	situation where it's evidence informed, not
5	really, you know, evidence based because you
6	don't have that strong evidence to support it.
7	I actually picked up the words
8	evidence informed from the Bright Futures
9	guidelines where, you know, sometimes you kind
10	of have the same problems in terms of your
11	periodicity schedules. The variety of the
12	screenings that are recommended in the Bright
13	Futures, this is really that parallel in
14	dentistry.
15	MR. MCINERNEY: So if there's no
16	further discussion on evidence, shall we vote
17	on that please.
18	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For evidence
19	1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low, 4 is
20	insufficient evidence and 5 is insufficient
21	evidence with exception. Voting is open.
22	So we now have all of our votes

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1	and voting is now closed.
2	MS. MUNTHALI: So we haven't
3	reached consensus, it looks like a split vote.
4	Am I counting this right, is it 1 high, 9
5	moderate? And I can't read, I'm sorry, below
6	
7	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: It's 5 below.
8	MS. MUNTHALI: 5 below.
9	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: 4, yes.
10	MS. MUNTHALI: It's 10 and 10, so
11	what, we are missing one vote so let's re-
12	vote. Sorry, about that, I think we're back
13	to 21 in the room.
14	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay, so
15	voting is now open. We're waiting on one
16	vote. Okay, all the votes are in and voting
17	is now closed. Okay, there were 10 votes.
18	(Off record comments.)
19	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay, sorry
20	about that I think we're going to have to re-
21	vote again.
22	(Off record comments.)

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1	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay, sorry.
2	So there are 10 for moderate, 6 votes for low,
3	4 votes for insufficient and 1 vote for
4	insufficient evidence with exception.
5	MS. MUNTHALI: So based on the
6	Committee's voting, this measure will not go
7	forward. It has failed on evidence for
8	importance to measure and report. So, sorry.
9	MR. KROL: Remind me what
10	insufficient evidence with exception means?
11	MS. MUNTHALI: So I will point you
12	to your algorithms. If you go to the back
13	page of the first page, which would be page,
14	well I guess it's 9, it's not in the back it's
15	the second page.
16	So if you, to answer this. If you
17	had said on Number 7, is empirical evidence
18	submitted but without systematic review and
19	grading of the evidence, if you answered no
20	you go to 10. Are there or should there be
21	performance measures of related health outcome
22	or evidence based intermediate clinical

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1 outcomes of process? 2 This is what I was talking about If you had said no to that you'd go 3 before. over again to Number 11, is there evidence for 4 5 systematic assessment of expert opinion that the benefits of what is being measured 6 7 outweighs potential harms. And then the Committee would make 8 9 a decision on whether or not you agree it's 10 okay to hold providers accountable for 11 performance in the absence of empirical 12 evidence, as you were talking about before, of 13 benefits to patient. 14 If that is the case you would rate 15 it as insufficient evidence with exception. MR. KROL: So that falls in the 16 17 negative camp rather then positive camp? Ι 18 guess that's my question. 19 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: No, it will 20 move forward. 21 MR. KROL: So then it's 11, but we 22 have to have 60 percent?

1	MS. MUNTHALI: Yes.
2	MR. KROL: Oh, I see what you're
3	saying.
4	MS. MUNTHALI: Yes, sorry.
5	MR. KROL: You don't have to have
6	more then 50 percent.
7	MS. MUNTHALI: Sorry, I should
8	have explained that.
9	MR. KROL: I get it.
10	MS. MUNTHALI: So yes. But that
11	is a positive, that's, you're making
12	MR. KROL: Okay.
13	MS. MUNTHALI: an exception to
14	the rule. So, I mean besides the conversation
15	there was a lot of rich discussion before but,
16	so that we can note it for, not just us but
17	for the developers, is there anything else
18	you'd like to say about your vote? Either
19	way, if you voted for it or against, we'd like
20	to make note of that.
21	MR. BAER: I'm going to make a
22	comment. I think without this measure it

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1	makes the previous measure almost irrelevant.
2	To me. Just my opinion.
3	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you. So
4	noted.
5	MR. VENKATESH: I would only kind
6	of encourage the developers to think about, if
7	you read about this measure or bring it
8	forward again, how you interpret it vis a vis
9	the first measure. You can imagine a world
10	where both of these measures are endorsed and
11	they're both being used.
12	And I can understand from
12 13	And I can understand from Michael's perspective how that can be useful.
13	Michael's perspective how that can be useful.
13 14	Michael's perspective how that can be useful. But if you think about it, if the scores for
13 14 15	Michael's perspective how that can be useful. But if you think about it, if the scores for both measures go up we all feel good that
13 14 15 16	Michael's perspective how that can be useful. But if you think about it, if the scores for both measures go up we all feel good that access is getting better. If the scores for
13 14 15 16 17	Michael's perspective how that can be useful. But if you think about it, if the scores for both measures go up we all feel good that access is getting better. If the scores for both measures go down we all feel bad because
13 14 15 16 17 18	Michael's perspective how that can be useful. But if you think about it, if the scores for both measures go up we all feel good that access is getting better. If the scores for both measures go down we all feel bad because access is getting worse.
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Michael's perspective how that can be useful. But if you think about it, if the scores for both measures go up we all feel good that access is getting better. If the scores for both measures go down we all feel bad because access is getting worse. But the more likely thing that can
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Michael's perspective how that can be useful. But if you think about it, if the scores for both measures go up we all feel good that access is getting better. If the scores for both measures go down we all feel bad because access is getting worse. But the more likely thing that can happen, because the visitations are different

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1	up potentially because you're having better
2	preventative visits and reduced
3	MR. CRALL: I actually think the
4	other scenario is probably more likely and
5	would tell you whether or not you actually
6	have people, you know, that are basically
7	getting care for episodic sort of things that
8	somebody has to arrange for versus not. So I
9	don't necessarily agree that that's the more
10	likely scenario at all.
11	MR. VENKATESH: I just think that
12	you should have some analysis that show the
13	incremental of what, who's getting captured or
14	not captured between the two.
15	MS. LUCK: I'm wondering, for a
16	possible re-submission in the future, if given
17	the fact that there's only this one, the
18	Cochrane study that cites one randomized
19	controlled trial which didn't clearly show an
20	impact, whether you might not be advised to
21	really explicitly look for a rate as
22	insufficient evidence with exception in the

1	measure form.
2	Saying that, because as you read
3	through the algorithm, Lisa, I thought okay,
4	so the experts, we don't have evidence but
5	what is it here, the final one, is there
6	evidence of a systematic assessment of expert
7	opinion, kind of work that angle in order to
8	get Committee approval.
9	MR. KROL: She means on re-
10	submission. She's suggesting
11	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: No, but we don't
12	have the ability to take that on the
13	submission form, it's your judgement. I think
14	we give you whatever we have.
15	MS. MUNTHALI: But I think what
16	she's saying is to make sure that you provide
17	the information. I think if you had
18	additional information on the submission form
19	that could speak to that.
20	MS. LUCK: And following the
21	algorithm step by step, if a systematic review
22	is provided then your pushed into the rating

1	it as low, moderate or high. Whereas if the
2	systematic review is not provided, you could
3	maybe mention it and say that we don't want to
4	officially submit this as evidence
5	MR. CRALL: Right.
6	MS. LUCK: because we accept
7	that it's not enough. However, the expert
8	MR. CRALL: Right, the guidelines
9	suggest that every six months or, you know, at
10	the discretion based on risk. I mean that's
11	what we have as guidelines that are synthesis
12	of that but don't reach the level of
13	systemized, randomized, control trial. Yes.
14	MS. SAMPSEL: Okay, any other
15	comments?
16	MS. KHAN: Sorry, just a quick
17	process check. We've developed a new
18	consensus process, so basically any measure
19	that falls within the 40 to 60 range is going
20	to keep going forward.
21	With noting that what your scores
22	were because if you think about, it's 10

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1	moderate and 1 voting, one saying it's okay
2	with an exception, so it's really 11. And
3	then it's 4 said insufficient information and
4	6 said low. So it's a vote 11 to ten.
5	So we're going to keep going
6	forward with the voting on the measure. It
7	will go out for public comment. There'll be
8	no overall vote, but we are going to send it
9	out for public comment.
10	And then once the Committee is
11	able to reconcile all the comments that's when
12	we'll come up with the final vote. Does that
13	sound good to everybody?
14	MR. KROL: I can't help but feel
15	like that some of this may be the challenge of
16	a large part of this room being very familiar
17	with medical related work and medical coding
18	versus dental and dental coding.
19	And I just, what I sense, and that
20	maybe completely wrong, but what I sense here
21	is that a potential analogy for the challenge
22	we're having here is for those pediatricians

1	in the room, the question of quality access to
2	care being defined as children, a child say 1
3	to 4 having a 99392 code, if you know what I'm
4	saying there, so that's the, that's our
5	periodic comprehensive evaluation. That's our
6	equivalent.
7	Versus a whole series of 99213s.
8	Which are just, you know, a problem. I'm
9	addressing a problem all year long.
10	And that I think is, so that I
11	think, in speaking that language of the
12	physicians, it's, is the first measure that we
13	addressed was the 99392s plus all the 99213s
14	thrown together in one year versus this, just
15	pulling out the 99392. The periodic.
16	And whether there's a question of
17	is, is that actually truly better access to
18	care or what children should be providing,
19	being provided versus say a series of, put out
20	the fire, put out the fire, put out the fire
21	all year long.
22	I don't know if that helps this

1	conversation but, because I sort of live in
2	this world straddling medicine in dentistry,
3	I think I see that there may be a little bit
4	of a challenge here for us on the medical side
5	understanding this.
6	I don't know if that helps or
7	changes, I'm not trying to persuade anyone
8	from changing anything but I just think there
9	maybe, this may be a larger issue or just the
10	challenge that we're facing here. So I'll
11	contribute that.
12	MR. MCINERNEY: So we should
13	continue to vote on the different, the next
14	measures since we've decided that the rules
15	allow us to do that.
16	So the next would then be the
17	scientific, the opportunity for improvement.
18	Would you like to talk to that, Ron, please?
19	MR. INGE: So the opportunity for
20	improvement again refers to the two systems
21	where it's currently being measured and the
22	opportunity that it is readily available in

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1	both delivery systems, medicaid and commercial
2	environment. And a measure of potentially
3	access provided by a plan.
4	MR. MCINERNEY: Any discussion on
5	that? Okay, let's vote then on the
6	performance gap or opportunity for improvement
7	please.
8	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
9	performance gap, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3
10	is low and 4 is insufficient. Voting is now
11	open. All of the votes are in and voting is
12	now closed.
13	For performance gap there were 8
14	votes for high, 10 votes for moderate, 1 vote
15	for low and 2 votes for insufficient.
16	MR. INGE: So the next is
17	priority. And as was mentioned by the
18	developers, the priority is to be able to
19	evaluate children being introduced into a
20	healthcare path as opposed to episodic care
21	which would just simply be problem solving.
22	And then the introduction into a

1	path towards better healthcare is a path
2	towards quality measurement so that it follows
3	along line of the placement of fluoride, which
4	we've discussed earlier we well as the
5	placement of sealants.
6	MR. MCINERNEY: Any comments on
7	this measure? Okay. Let's vote on priority,
8	please.
9	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For high
10	priority, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low
11	and 4 is insufficient. And voting is now
12	open.
13	And we're waiting for one more
14	vote.
15	All of the votes are in and voting
16	is now closed. For high priority there were
17	5 votes for high, 11 votes for moderate, 4
18	votes for low and 1 vote for insufficient.
19	MR. INGE: The next one's
20	reliability. The methodology suggested by the
21	developers is very specific and repeatable and
22	so the reliability would be high in regards to

1	identifying the parameters or the specific
2	codes that apply to this measure.
3	MR. MCINERNEY: Any comments on
4	reliability? Okay. Let's vote on reliability
5	please. Thanks.
6	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
7	reliability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is
8	low and 4 is insufficient. And voting is now
9	open.
10	All votes are in and voting is now
11	closed. For reliability, there are 6 votes
12	for high, 12 votes for moderate, 3 votes for
13	low and 0 votes for insufficient.
14	MR. INGE: Okay. Under validity
15	we raised the challenges of the previous
16	measure, whether or not this is a subset of
17	that measure and does it have evidence to
18	support its efficacy. So that is a challenge
19	that we've just discussed. And under validity
20	that would be the only challenge that I would
21	see.
22	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further

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1	discussion on validity? Okay. Let's vote
2	please.
3	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For validity,
4	1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is
5	insufficient. Voting is now open.
6	Okay, and we're still waiting on
7	one vote. All votes are in and voting is now
8	closed. For validity there is 1 vote for
9	high, 12 votes for moderate, 8 votes for low
10	and 0 votes for insufficient.
11	MR. INGE: Okay. On feasibility
12	the data source being measured is very
13	consistent, being measured through claims
14	data. Again, a very reliable source in
15	regards to the reporting of these specific
16	codes and being able to capture that
17	information. From that standpoint feasibility
18	would be fairly straightforward.
19	MR. MCINERNEY: Further discussion
20	on feasibility? Okay. Let's vote please.
21	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
22	feasibility, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is

1	low and 4 is insufficient. And voting is now
2	open.
3	All of the votes are in and voting
4	is now closed. For feasibility there were 17
5	votes for high, 4 votes for moderate, 0 votes
6	for low and 0 votes for insufficient.
7	MR. MCINERNEY: Feasibility.
8	MR. INGE: Usability. Currently
9	it's in use in two programs that the
10	developers mentioned. It is reportable to the
11	public. Is an indication or measure that can
12	be used on a plan level, programmatic level,
13	to show improvement over time.
14	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you. Any
15	further comments on usability? Seeing none
16	let's vote please.
17	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For usability
18	1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is
19	insufficient information. Voting is now open.
20	Okay, and we're still waiting on
21	one vote. Okay. All the votes are in and
22	voting is now closed. For usability there

1	were 7 votes for high, 8 votes for moderate,
2	5 votes for low and 1 vote for insufficient
3	information.
4	MR. MCINERNEY: All right, thank
5	you. So to vote on this measure overall for
6	endorsement we're in somewhat limbo territory
7	here I think. Because of the first vote being
8	an 11 to 10 votes we did not achieve a 60
9	percent majority. I'll leave it up to the
10	Committee whether we want to vote for overall
11	suitability for endorsement if that's
12	permissible.
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13	MS. KHAN: The other option would
13 14	MS. KHAN: The other option would be to wait until public and member comment and
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14	be to wait until public and member comment and
14 15	be to wait until public and member comment and then do a vote.
14 15 16	be to wait until public and member comment and then do a vote. MS. MUNTHALI: The other thing I
14 15 16 17	be to wait until public and member comment and then do a vote. MS. MUNTHALI: The other thing I just want to add, since usability and use was
14 15 16 17 18	be to wait until public and member comment and then do a vote. MS. MUNTHALI: The other thing I just want to add, since usability and use was voted so lowly we would want to get some input
14 15 16 17 18 19	be to wait until public and member comment and then do a vote. MS. MUNTHALI: The other thing I just want to add, since usability and use was voted so lowly we would want to get some input from you as well on that.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	be to wait until public and member comment and then do a vote. MS. MUNTHALI: The other thing I just want to add, since usability and use was voted so lowly we would want to get some input from you as well on that. MR. MCINERNEY: Yes, Eric.

1	in some ways. It's like doing a test without
2	needing it.
3	MS. FRAZIER: Yes, I guess I got
4	confused in the process. Because I think it
5	seemed that if you don't vote for number one,
6	which we didn't have consensus, it really
7	marginalizes all the other votes. So I can't
8	imagine voting for an overall if we've
9	marginalized everything else. I mean, I would
10	be, I would feel very uncomfortable. It just
11	seemed to be so inconsistent.
12	It just marginalizes this specific
13	process and what we did for just this measure,
13 14	process and what we did for just this measure, I think we just kind of marginalize it a
14	I think we just kind of marginalize it a
14 15	I think we just kind of marginalize it a little bit. Especially if we vote at the end.
14 15 16	I think we just kind of marginalize it a little bit. Especially if we vote at the end. Just for this measure. I'm not sure why we
14 15 16 17	I think we just kind of marginalize it a little bit. Especially if we vote at the end. Just for this measure. I'm not sure why we did that, but
14 15 16 17 18	I think we just kind of marginalize it a little bit. Especially if we vote at the end. Just for this measure. I'm not sure why we did that, but MS. KHAN: I do want to note also
14 15 16 17 18 19	I think we just kind of marginalize it a little bit. Especially if we vote at the end. Just for this measure. I'm not sure why we did that, but MS. KHAN: I do want to note also that we were in the sort of 40 to 60 gray zone

1	MS. FRAZIER: Well that means I
2	definitely don't want to vote for the last
3	one. I mean you just validated what, I don't,
4	think we shouldn't vote for the last.
5	MR. VENKATESH: I would also say
6	that earlier, just a few minutes ago, we said
7	we would not vote at the end. And so there
8	are things I wrote down to give as feedback to
9	the developers that otherwise would have been
10	part of maybe a discussion in the interim.
11	And so if we're really going to
12	change course to vote, when we said we weren't
13	going to at the end, that to me seems somewhat
14	drastic when we have another option which is
15	to get more information, wait until the
16	comment period's over.
17	MR. BAER: I'll make that a
18	motion, that we delay.
19	MR. BIALEK: Second.
20	MR. MCINERNEY: Hearing no further
21	discussion on delaying the vote, all in favor
22	of delaying the vote Do we need to use the

1	clickers or can we just do a hand
2	MS. KHAN: We can just do hands.
3	MR. MCINERNEY: Hand vote. All in
4	favor of delaying the vote, aye. And, all
5	right, clear majority to
6	MS. KHAN: We can hear anyone's
7	feedback at this point if you wanted to
8	provide your feedback to the developers.
9	MR. VENKATESH: We can do it
10	offline. It'll save time.
11	MR. MCINERNEY: Sorry. The next
12	one is 2518, Care Continuity Dental Service.
13	This is a continuity measure. Percentage of
14	enrolled children age 2 to 21 years enrolled
15	in two consecutive years who received a
16	comprehensive or periodic oral evaluation in
17	both years. Measure developers want to say
18	something about this one please?
19	FEMALE PARTICIPANT: This is just
20	taking, unfortunately, the previous measure a
21	step further and looking for services over two
22	years. Again, it's continuity in terms of

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1	keeping the children in the dental home and
2	making sure that they're receiving the
3	services over two years.
4	MR. CRALL: Guess the only thing
5	I'd add is, you know, it is a different
6	measure and the data we have suggests that
7	it's not as close as overlap as the previous
8	measure would have been to the use of services
9	measure. So that issue about the longer time
10	period for the assessment of performance on
11	the measure, I think, makes it a different
12	measure. It's not just sort of more of the
13	same.
14	MR. MCINERNEY: David.
15	MR. KROL: Sure. So this measure
16	is a process measure that focused on whether
17	a child received a comprehensive or periodic
18	oral evaluation in each of two consecutive
19	years.
20	The connection between the process
21	and health outcome is stated in the following
22	way, "Clinical oral evaluations play an

1	essential role in caries identification,
2	prevention and treatment thereby promoting
3	improved oral health, overall health and
4	quality of life."
5	Two clinical practice guidelines
6	are presented as evidence to support the
7	measure. One from UK NICE and the American
8	Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. One of the
9	two, the UK one, comments on the frequency
10	interval of the evaluations shortest being
11	three, longest being 12, while the AAPD
12	guideline gives the average interval but does
13	not recommend an interval.
14	Limited evidence is provided to
15	show the process contribution to a health
16	outcome. The AAPD guideline states, "Early
17	detection and management of oral conditions
18	can improve a child's oral health." And
19	that's my emphasis, can, not theirs. But it's
20	interesting that that word may have been
21	purposefully used since the evidence isn't
22	necessarily there.

1	And the grades of D or GPP of the
2	evidence are provided by the UK NICE review
3	but not by the AAPD review. There's no
4	grading of the quality or definition of the
5	grading of the quoted evidence provided for
6	either of the systematic reviews.
7	The UK review, however, states
8	that there is a lack of high quality evidence
9	across studies, though that may not reflect
10	importance and professional agreement exists
11	around at least yearly intervals for recall
12	visits, as we've talked about.
13	A more recent systematic review
14	was Cochrane that included only RCTs and only
15	included one study. That was rated as very
16	low quality.
17	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
18	discussion?
19	MS. SAMPSEL: Actually we have a
20	new member who joined. So, Mike, we're hoping
21	that could as a matter of public record,
22	introduce yourself as well as update any

1	changes that you may or may not have had to
2	disclosures or conflicts of interest.
3	MR. STOTO: Okay. Well, thank
4	you. Well first of all let me apologize for
5	being late, I had another important meeting I
6	had to go to today back at home.
7	I'm Mike Stoto. I'm on the
8	faculty at Georgetown University and I don't
9	have any changes to make to my disclosures.
10	MS. KHAN: Sorry. We're going to
11	be giving you a slip of paper also that will
12	state whether you have a two or three year
13	term on the Committee.
14	MR. STOTO: Okay.
15	MS. KHAN: So if you could just
16	announce that when you get your paper.
17	MR. STOTO: It's a lottery huh?
18	Two. Is that good or bad?
19	MR. MCINERNEY: Well the pay is
20	the same whether it's two or three years.
21	(Laughter.)
22	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. So thanks

1	for reminding me, that introduction. So now
2	remind me, where are we.
3	MS. KHAN: Evidence.
4	MR. MCINERNEY: Evidence? Okay.
5	Any further discussion on evidence? Yes.
6	MR. BIALEK: I don't know if this
7	fits with the evidence discussion or further
8	down. But for the population here, two
9	consecutive years, if you're not in the same
10	plan for two consecutive years how is that
11	impacted with regard to the measure?
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12	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator
12	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator
12 13	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator is conditioned based on enrollment
12 13 14	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator is conditioned based on enrollment requirements for both years. So it would only
12 13 14 15	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator is conditioned based on enrollment requirements for both years. So it would only capture those in the denominator, so that is
12 13 14 15 16	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator is conditioned based on enrollment requirements for both years. So it would only capture those in the denominator, so that is adjusted for.
12 13 14 15 16 17	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator is conditioned based on enrollment requirements for both years. So it would only capture those in the denominator, so that is adjusted for. MR. MCINERNEY: Arjun.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator is conditioned based on enrollment requirements for both years. So it would only capture those in the denominator, so that is adjusted for. MR. MCINERNEY: Arjun. MR. BIALEK: For the individuals
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator is conditioned based on enrollment requirements for both years. So it would only capture those in the denominator, so that is adjusted for. MR. MCINERNEY: Arjun. MR. BIALEK: For the individuals who are not enrolled for two consecutive years
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The denominator is conditioned based on enrollment requirements for both years. So it would only capture those in the denominator, so that is adjusted for. MR. MCINERNEY: Arjun. MR. BIALEK: For the individuals who are not enrolled for two consecutive years which is, I mean, do you have data on the

1	specific health plan? Especially Medicaid,
2	Chip?
3	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: I believe we do
4	have that data but it wasn't Do we have the
5	two-year enrollment?
6	FEMALE PARTICIPANT: I don't think
7	it's in the application.
8	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: It's not in the
9	application, but that was part of our
10	Committee review that we did in terms of
11	understanding the feasibility of these
12	measures. Either we went back to, you know,
13	90 day, 180 day, 11 out of 12 months and did
14	the whole iteration before we came up with the
15	conclusion that this was going to be feasible
16	and valid for the measuring of the plan at the
17	program level.
18	MR. BIALEK: So you don't have the
19	proportion of the population?
20	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Not in the
21	application, no.
22	MR. BIALEK: Why wouldn't you have

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1	that out of the application?
2	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Yes, we have it
3	available. We can share it with you at some
4	point.
5	MR. BIALEK: That would be good,
6	thank you.
7	MR. VENKATESH: I was just going
8	to say that I think this measure has a couple
9	features to it that make it a much better
10	measure of access and something that I think
11	seems a lot stronger than the previous measure
12	that we evaluated. And that is that it
13	includes this concept of two visits.
14	And the language that was getting
15	used in the previous measure a lot was that,
16	you know, you needed to have one periodic or
17	comprehensive exam to have a pathway but there
18	really wasn't data, or there wasn't evidence
19	to suggest that by having one that you
20	therefore have a pathway.
21	To me when I see this measure and
22	interpretation it said this is a pathway

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1	because it's suggesting that the second visit
2	suggests that hopefully that something happens
3	between the two. There's some construct for
4	continuity then. So to me this is a much
5	better measure of access.
6	And also I think we shouldn't
7	overplay some of the level of evidence work
8	from the Cochrane review, because if you think
9	about what happens in the Cochrane review the
10	question they're asked is, right, does this
11	having a periodic evaluation lead to some
12	health outcome change.
13	But if we're viewing this as a
14	measure of access, so within the National
15	Quality structure if you think about the
16	community domain and access underneath that,
17	that's not the question that they asked when
18	they reviewed a lot of this evidence.
19	And so if you are looking for an
20	access measure and something that has that
21	kind of continuity element to it I think this
22	addresses those in some ways better so than

1	just a straight utilization measure of a
2	single visit. And I think it's good for that
3	case.
4	MR. STOTO: So I guess the issue
5	with this one is that they call it care
6	continuity and I wonder whether or not just
7	two visits in two subsequent years really is
8	a measure of continuity.
9	I mean, continuity I think usually
10	means that all of your services are
11	coordinated from a variety of different
12	providers and so on. And this strikes me as
13	not getting at that concept.
14	MS. ASOMUGHA: That's precisely
15	what I was going to say as well. It really
16	doesn't get at that whole continuity question.
17	I also And I stepped out right when
18	somebody was asking a question about what
19	happens if they change plans or doctors or
20	whatnot, does that still get followed.
21	So I don't consider it to be the
22	best measure of access or continuity for that
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1	matter.
2	MR. MCINERNEY: Yes.
3	MS. MCKANE: And mine is similar.
4	I had to step out so if this was covered I
5	apologize. But I was wondering how you
6	decided on just two years. And, you know, the
7	same thing, when I think in continuity of care
8	I think in longer terms. But I also recognize
9	that with the population that may be difficult
10	to track. So I was wondering how you arrived
11	at two years as your period?
12	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So this is
13	really difficult for us, right? And in terms
14	of measuring you would hope that the primary
15	use of any measure is more longitudinal. That
16	the program or plan will pick a measure and
17	then keep it for over time so they can see
18	change over time.
19	So if you think about this measure
20	and then look at it over time then that trend
21	data is really, really useful even though the
22	population might shift between year one, year

1	two. Year two, year three or year three, year
2	four.
3	There is some continuity built
4	into that that helps at a program again
5	bringing us back from the individual patient,
6	individual provider, to looking at this as an
7	access measure at the plan level, program
8	level, how does that work. I think that's the
9	thought process that went into looking at the
10	measure the way it is.
11	MR. CRALL: Yes and the other is
12	just looking empirically and noticing the
13	falloff. The longer you make that period the
14	smaller the, you know, the proportion of the
15	population that you can actually look at. So
16	I mean we actually look at it empirically.
17	MR. MCINERNEY: All right. Any
18	further discussion on 1A, evidence? Yes.
19	MR. STOTO: One more thing. I
20	mean reading through this whole set of
21	measures it struck me you guys did a really
22	good job in trying to do the best you could

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1	with the data you had. And in some cases you
2	did a very good job I thought.
3	But in this case it seemed to be
4	too much of a stretch that this particular
5	proposed measure would actually address
6	continuity. Maybe it's a useful thing to have
7	but I certainly want to call it continuity.
8	And I can't say that the evidence that's cited
9	about the importance of continuity relates to
10	this, was addressed by this measure.
11	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The continuity
12	of care is the name of the measure. If there
13	is a better way to express it I think we would
14	be open to it. But the intent of this measure
15	is simply to say dental home one here, dental
16	home and then see if that patient was within
17	the system. So definitely if there is a
18	different way to express the measure title we
19	are open to that suggestion.
20	MR. MCINERNEY: No further
21	discussion. Let's vote on evidence please.
22	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Okay. For

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1	evidence 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low,
2	4 is insufficient evidence, 5 is insufficient
3	evidence with exception. Voting is open.
4	Okay. Just waiting on one vote.
5	All of the votes are in and voting is now
6	closed.
7	For evidence, 0 voted high, 11
8	voted moderate, 5 voted low, 4 voted
9	insufficient evidence and 2 voted insufficient
10	evidence with exception.
11	MR. MCINERNEY: So if we add the
12	11 moderate and the 2 insufficient with
13	exception that gets to 13 out of 22.
14	MS. KHAN: So it's 59 percent.
15	MALE PARTICIPANT: All right, if
16	it was 13 out of 21 it would have been good.
17	MS. KHAN: So we'll just follow
18	the same procedure we did before. At the end
19	we can decide, or you all can decide as the
20	Committee whether or not you want to do an
21	overall vote or not.
22	MR. KROL: Okay to go for the

1	performance category?
2	MR. MCINERNEY: Yes, David.
3	MR. KROL: So for performance gap
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4	extensive data are made available that
5	demonstrate a considerable variation and less
6	than optimal performance of annual access to
7	dental services, though not specifically using
8	this process measure, these disparities are
9	found by age, race, ethnicity, geography as
10	well as family income, insurance status and
11	education.
12	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
12 13	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further discussion on performance gap? Yes?
13	discussion on performance gap? Yes?
13 14	discussion on performance gap? Yes? MS. MCKANE: I have a question.
13 14 15	discussion on performance gap? Yes? MS. MCKANE: I have a question. It says, I was just reading whatever this is
13 14 15 16	discussion on performance gap? Yes? MS. MCKANE: I have a question. It says, I was just reading whatever this is Sorry. I was reading the summary and it
13 14 15 16 17	discussion on performance gap? Yes? MS. MCKANE: I have a question. It says, I was just reading whatever this is Sorry. I was reading the summary and it says that these data however do not relate to
13 14 15 16 17 18	discussion on performance gap? Yes? MS. MCKANE: I have a question. It says, I was just reading whatever this is Sorry. I was reading the summary and it says that these data however do not relate to the proposed measure of continuity of care so
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	discussion on performance gap? Yes? MS. MCKANE: I have a question. It says, I was just reading whatever this is Sorry. I was reading the summary and it says that these data however do not relate to the proposed measure of continuity of care so the data aren't provided for this. I mean I

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1	Okay. I just wanted to clarify
2	that because that's what I was reading and I
3	just wanted to make sure.
4	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Yes. If we had
5	cited something from the literature then we
6	probably had made a comment that that is not
7	very specific to this measure. But our own
8	testing data that's including in the measure
9	testing form is definitely against this
10	particular measure.
11	MS. MCKANE: Okay. Thank you.
12	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Any further
13	discussion on performance gap? Okay. Let's
14	vote please.
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
16	performance gap, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3
17	is low and 4 is insufficient. And voting is
18	now open.
19	All votes are in and voting is now
20	closed. For performance gap 4 voted high, 13
21	voted moderate, 3 voted low and 2 voted
22	insufficient.

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1	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay.
2	MR. KROL: So high priority. Data
3	are made available for the percentage of
4	children who have untreated decay. Data was
5	previously provided on higher disease rates in
6	certain populations, minority and poor
7	populations, and the specific disease, dental
8	care, is noted as noted as the most common
9	chronic disease of childhood.
10	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
11	discussion on priority? Okay then let's vote.
12	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For high
13	priority, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low
14	and 4 is insufficient. And voting is now
15	open.
16	All of the votes are in and voting
17	is now closed. For high priority 7 voted
18	high, 10 voted moderate, 3 voted low and 2
19	voted insufficient.
20	MR. KROL: So which is 2A,
21	reliability and validity. So 2A, let's see.
22	Yes, the only things that I had down here you

1	could probably ignore. They're my nitpicking
2	about the language and the numerator and
3	denominator. It's just left out, the age
4	group and the denominator. But I think that's
5	a nitpick that's not an issue.
6	And then just back to the whole
7	logic about who provides services as far as
8	the rendering provider taxonomy code. And
9	then there's that one code that would qualify
10	but it has a notation that states it's not
11	applicable for this measure. We talked about
12	this in a previous measure, didn't quite make
13	sense. Otherwise numerator, denominator
14	exclusions are clearly described.
15	Let's see. And then specifically
16	about reliability testing. Well I'm talking
17	about both. Okay. So for reliability, wasn't
18	done using statistical tests with the measure
19	as specified. The authors make a case that
20	because the measure relies on standard data
21	fields commonly used in administrative data
22	that integrated reliability does not apply.

1	As for the flow chart that we got,
2	since they did do empirical validity testing
3	with patient-level data, I'm using the rating
4	from the validity testing of the patient-level
5	evidence. And that's just following the
6	protocol of how you put it in.
7	So as far as validity testing for
8	the measure it assessed critical data element
9	validity, empirical measures for validity face
10	and then potential threats. The critical data
11	element validity focused on the accuracy of
12	the dental procedure codes reported in the
13	plan's data. This was done looking at whether
14	the code in the plan's data was supported by
15	the dental record. They found agreement,
16	concordance between dental records,
17	administrative claims data with good numbers,
18	kappa point 642 which is substantial.
19	Face validity was gauged through
20	feedbacks elicited through public comment
21	periods, stakeholder feedback, though no
22	measure of that face validity was obtained,

1	though they did state that unanimous agreement
2	among the group of stakeholders that the
3	calculated measure can be used to evaluate
4	quality of care was obtained.
5	And additional face validity test
6	via consensus process to determine the final
7	denominator definition regarding length of
8	enrollment, six months. They also looked at
9	whether long, meaning great than six month
10	gaps in enrollment, might be a threat to
11	validity and they found it would not be.
12	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
13	discussion on reliability? Okay. Let's vote
14	please.
1 -	
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
15 16	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For reliability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is
16	reliability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is
16 17	reliability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is insufficient. And voting is
16 17 18	reliability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is insufficient. And voting is open.
16 17 18 19	reliability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is insufficient. And voting is open. All votes are in and voting is now
16 17 18 19 20	reliability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is insufficient. And voting is open. All votes are in and voting is now closed. For reliability 4 voted high, 16

1	MR. KROL: Yes, so I'm not sure
2	that when Essentially it defaulted from
3	reliability to validity. So it's sort of
4	redundant, I'm not sure if you want us to go
5	through that again with the validity? Okay.
6	Do you want me to repeat what I
7	said for the reliability and validity? Okay.
8	Thank you.
9	MR. MCINERNEY: Any discussion on
10	validity? Yes?
11	MR. STOTO: I'm trying to find the
12	exact spot. But I think I recall that reading
13	that the RAND/UCLA Delphi process method
14	didn't actually consider this measure itself.
15	So they can't really cite that as in support
16	of the validity if they didn't support this
17	measure. Is that correct?
18	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: You mean for the
19	face validity of the measure?
20	MR. STOTO: The face validity,
21	yes.
22	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So yes, it was

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1	part of the Delphi process that it was
2	considered. I'm not sure what we wrote on the
3	form. But we also, an array of Delphi
4	processes is we go at it iteratively at
5	different stages in the measure development
6	process.
7	So initially as we do an
8	environmental scan and then when we later on
9	do the draft measure concept. And then as we
10	do the measure, so definitely in the later
11	stages of the game this was included. This
12	measure was not identified in the
13	environmental scan, that's the section that
14	you might be referring to.
15	MR. STOTO: So was this particular
16	version of the measure I mean, I can see
17	that continuity for sure would score high in
18	face validity. But this idea about received
19	a comprehensive evaluation in both years
20	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Definitely.
21	MR. STOTO: Was that the specific
22	one that was scored high there?

1	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Yes. When we
2	have our draft measures, before we test we
3	send it out once. Then in between, once we
4	have all the testing data, before we actually
5	finalize the measure we take another check on
6	face validity.
7	Then after we finalize the
8	complete specs and all the i's are dotted, t's
9	are crossed, we set it out again for a vote.
10	So we have multiple places where we check for
11	face validity.
12	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Any further
13	discussion on validity? All right, let's vote
14	please.
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For validity,
16	1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is
17	insufficient. And voting is now open.
18	All votes are in and voting is now
19	closed. For validity 0 voted high, 16 voted
20	moderate, 5 voted low and 1 voted
21	insufficient.
22	MR. STOTO: Could I I'm sorry

1	to come back to it, but I found the language
2	that I was looking for. I mean, can I bring
3	it up again? Yes.
4	This is in the section that says
5	face validity in the Appendix about 2A, 2B and
6	so on. It says, "Continuity was identified in
7	the Delphi process and although care
8	continuity was not explicitly evaluated
9	through the Delphi process the measure
10	concepts for oral evaluation and specifically
11	a comprehensive or period oral evaluation were
12	evaluated."
13	Oral evaluation is a central
14	component of the proposed method and got a
15	high score. So this comes back to the first
16	thing that we talked about with this measure,
17	is that oral evaluation scored well in terms
18	of validity. But not, as I read this text
19	here, as a measure of continuity. That's the
20	concern that I have.
21	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So that
22	pertained to the environmental scan results

1	and how we use the Delphi process to wiggle
2	down the concepts that we were trying to go
3	ahead and double up the measures with.
4	So initially when we got our list
5	of 200-odd measures that were out there to be
6	part of the scan this was not included in that
7	list. So it did not go through that formal
8	Delphi process at that point in time. That's
9	what that section is talking about in terms of
10	environmental scan. I'm trying to pull that
11	up quickly, but I'm hoping that it's listed
12	under that section.
13	Later on, as our process works, we
14	have our committee which then looks at all of
15	these measures and votes on, okay, it passes
16	this step, passes this step. And when then we
17	go to take formal votes through the broader
18	DQA which has 32 different organizations
19	sitting at the table, and so it has to pass
20	all those votes before it, you know, comes to
21	any kind of final step.
22	And there are at least two

1 different steps of interim reports and 2 consensus building before any measure is 3 finalized. Then I have a very 4 MR. STOTO: specific question. And that is were the 5 experts asked whether this measure, as 6 7 currently stated, is a measure of continuity? MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: The measure has 8 9 -- I'm sorry. 10 MR. STOTO: That's the question. 11 And the way I read this it says no, but maybe 12 this is incorrect. 13 MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: So we have 14 always called this care continuity, but we 15 have not asked that specific question, does this reflect care continuity. This measure we 16 17 have always called it a care continuity 18 measure. 19 MR. CARILLO: Why not just call it 20 two-year care continuity? 21 MR. STOTO: Okay. 22 MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: And we can

1	editorially revise it. If it's not, if in
2	your expertise this doesn't really address
3	that, we're happy to revise it and simply call
4	it oral evaluation over two years.
5	MR. STOTO: Or two year care.
6	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Or two year care
7	continuity, whichever works.
8	MR. KROL: Start over. So these
9	are administrative data so as long as someone
10	decides to build for the service it will be
11	recorded in the normal operation of business
12	care. Most of these electronic billing
13	processes so they'll be captured
14	electronically. And there shouldn't be
15	additional cost to implement this data
16	collection.
17	MR. MCINERNEY: Any other comments
18	on feasibility? All right, let's vote please.
19	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: Feasibility,
20	1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is
21	insufficient. And voting is now open. Okay.
22	We're just waiting on one vote.

1	We still need one more vote.
2	Sorry, we're going to have re-vote it. Must
3	have lost one. Okay, it went through.
4	So for high there are 11 votes.
5	For moderate there were 10 votes. And for low
6	there were 1 votes.
7	MR. KROL: I'm going to stop
8	turning it off, you guys got me all nervous
9	about leaving it on.
10	Currently used in Texas for their
11	Medicaid and Chip programs. It's also being
12	suggested for use in Connecticut. As far as
13	It's not quite clear if there's evidence
14	that it's been shown to improve care or
15	quality, but likely it's just too early as
16	it's just been implemented.
17	And it doesn't seem to be that
18	there is any evidence that this will have any
19	negative consequences to patients. Although
20	unless providers feel that the burden of
21	measures like this, in doing all this for
22	Medicaid, makes them decide to leave Medicaid.

1	I don't know if that would necessarily be an
2	issue because I think this was specific to
3	Medicaid versus the payers.
4	But I know there's already a
5	challenge of trying to get providers to
6	participate in Medicaid, if this is seen as a
7	burden to them then it's just one more reason
8	to leave.
9	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
10	comments on usability? All right, let's vote
11	please.
12	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
13	usability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low
14	and 4 is insufficient information. And voting
	and is insufficient information. And voting
15	is now open.
15 16	
_	is now open.
16	is now open. All of the votes are in and voting
16 17	is now open. All of the votes are in and voting is now closed. For usability there were 4
16 17 18	is now open. All of the votes are in and voting is now closed. For usability there were 4 vote for high, 13 votes for moderate, 3 votes
16 17 18 19	is now open. All of the votes are in and voting is now closed. For usability there were 4 vote for high, 13 votes for moderate, 3 votes for low and 2 votes insufficient information.
16 17 18 19 20	is now open. All of the votes are in and voting is now closed. For usability there were 4 vote for high, 13 votes for moderate, 3 votes for low and 2 votes insufficient information. MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Well if you

1	the CO memory memory to de a final meto
1	the 60 percent required to do a final vote.
2	But I'll ask the group would we want to do a
3	final, overall suitability for endorsement
4	vote? Go ahead.
5	MR. INGE: I vote no. And to stay
6	consistent with our process from the previous.
7	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay.
8	MR. VALDEZ: And I second.
9	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: We agree.
10	MR. MCINERNEY: All right. So we
11	have some recommendations to not vote, to
12	delay the vote. All those in favor of
13	delaying the vote? Okay, great. We'll delay
14	the vote.
15	Well we've earned the break. A 15
16	minute break.
17	MS. SAMPSEL: No, I think it's
18	five minute break.
19	MR. MCINERNEY: Only five minutes?
20	MS. SAMPSEL: Maybe 10. How about
21	10?
22	MR. MCINERNEY: All right, 10.

1	We'll compromise at 10, all in favor of 10
2	minutes. Ten minute break. Thank you very
3	much.
4	MS. ARAVAMUDHAN: Thank you, for -
5	-
6	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you.
7	(Whereupon, the meeting in the
8	above-entitled matter went off the record at
9	3:45 p.m. and went back on the record at 3:57
10	p.m.)
11	MR. MCINERNEY: We'll try and get
12	through them this afternoon, but if for one
13	reason or another we get hung up on the first
14	we can do the second one, add that to
15	tomorrow's work.
16	So we now have, these measures are
17	our measures and we have the AHRQ developer
18	here, Pam Owens, want to say a word or two?
19	MS. OWENS: Sure. My name is Pam
20	Owens. I'm the scientific lead of the AHRQ
21	quality indicator so I'll be representing the
22	two measures this afternoon, if we get to two,

1	and the six measures tomorrow. I'll provide
2	a broad overview that basically encompasses
3	all of the measures in just a moment.
4	But on the phone I have Patrick
5	Romano, he is a pediatrician and internist at
6	UC Davis and is the actual measure developer.
7	And so Patrick has all the clinical knowledge
8	and I have the data knowledge and hopefully
9	together we can answer your questions.
10	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. And the
11	first measure that we're going to discuss is
12	the gastroenteritis admission rate, which is
13	on Page 37 of your worksheet. This measure is
14	admissions for principle diagnosis of
15	gastroenteritis or a principle diagnosis of
16	dehydration with a secondary diagnosis of
17	gastroenteritis per 100,000 population, ages
18	3 months to 17 years. And it excludes cases
19	transferred from another facility, cases with
20	gastrointestinal abnormalities or bacterial
21	gastroenteritis and obstetric admissions.
22	Now, did you want to say any word

1	about this measure, please?
2	MS. OWENS: That would be great.
3	So just to give you a broad overview, what
4	we'll be talking about this afternoon and
5	tomorrow are what we would call in the family
6	of prevention quality indicators.
7	The two today are part of the
8	pediatric quality indicator group. So they're
9	prevention quality indicators, but geared
10	towards kids.
11	All of these measures are
12	avoidable hospitalizations or ambulatory care-
13	sensitive condition indicators. They were
14	designed to assess population access to
15	timely, high-quality outpatient services for
16	the purposes of managing a chronic disease,
17	preventing complications of a chronic disease
18	or diagnosing acute illnesses before they
19	progress to inpatient treatment.
20	These are not measures of hospital
21	quality but rather measures of potentially
22	avoidable hospitalizations if appropriate

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1	outpatient care, other healthcare services or
2	community services was accessed and received.
3	These measures have a denominator
4	of a population base. In other words it's a
5	geographic orientation, it is not at the
6	hospital level. And these measures are
7	derived from the healthcare cost and
8	utilization project which is a voluntary
9	federal, state, private industry partnership
10	that collects data from 46 states, all
11	inpatient hospital discharges from 46 states,
12	that includes 4,651 hospitals in 2011. And
13	roughly that turns out to be five million
14	pediatric discharges, including births, per
15	year.
16	So just so you have a sense that
17	this is a very comprehensive database, the
18	database is actually grounded in the uniform
19	bill. This is what the hospitals submit as
20	their bill. So all of the data elements are
21	standardized through the National Uniform
22	Billing Committee so every data element has a

1	standard definition. So when we talk about
2	principle diagnosis versus secondary
3	diagnosis, that has a distinct meaning.
4	And it initially it is collected
5	as part of the routine process to get
6	reimbursement. We get it from the billing
7	side. If CMS uses it it's the claims side.
8	In other words it's adjudicated. So just to
9	give you some context on the data.
10	And, Patrick, do you want to say
11	anything about the gastroenteritis measure
12	itself?
13	MR. ROMANO: Yes. This is Patrick
14	Romano, can everyone hear me?
15	MR. MCINERNEY: Yes.
16	MR. ROMANO: Okay. Thank you.
17	Yes, I just wanted to add that this measure
18	differs from some of the other prevention
19	quality indicators that we'll be talking about
20	because it has two components to the logic.
21	So it allows for a principle diagnosis of
22	gastroenteritis or dehydration. But if the

1	principle diagnosis is dehydration then there
2	must be a secondary diagnosis of
3	gastroenteritis.
4	And just to give you a brief
5	historical perspective on that. So this
6	started out as two separate indicators in our
7	development process but as we went through our
8	delphi process with a series of expert panel
9	discussions and testing of the indicators it
10	was decided to bring the two indicators
11	together, to combine them, to improve the
12	reliability. And also it was felt that
13	hospitalizations for dehydration with other
14	identified causes were not of as much
15	interest.
16	They were more likely to be due to
17	underlying medical conditions, chronic
18	conditions, that a child might have. And not
19	as likely to be amenable to ambulatory care
20	and urgent care.
21	So that's why these two indicators
22	were brought together as you see the current

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1 construction. So I'll turn it back over now to 2 3 the panel. 4 MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you very Now time for discussion, Michael or 5 much. 6 Jacqueline, who --7 MR. CARILLO: Okay. A question? MR. MCINERNEY: 8 Sure. 9 MR. CARILLO: Now, we have 10 principle diagnosis which is, you know, put 11 together after the fact. You have first 12 diagnosis, second diagnosis, which as a 13 patient comes in. Can you clarify are we 14 talking about the principle diagnosis and then 15 talking about the secondary diagnosis from the other side? 16 MR. ROMANO: Well both the 17 principle diagnosis and the secondary 18 19 diagnosis are established after the patient leaves the hospital. They are defined in 20 21 regulation as diagnoses that are determined 22 through review of the medical record, usually

1	within 24 to 72 hours after the patient leaves
2	the hospital.
3	The principal diagnosis is the
4	principally responsible for occasioning the
5	admission of the patient to the hospital for
6	care. And the secondary diagnoses represent
7	other diagnoses that were established during
8	the hospital stay or were pertinent to the
9	treatment to the patient in the hospital.
10	So neither of these I think you
11	may be thinking of the admission diagnosis,
12	which is something completely different and
13	isn't used in the AHRQ I algorithms.
14	MR. CARILLO: Thank you.
15	MR. MCINERNEY: Yes. And from my
16	perspective it's sometimes in my mind it's
17	sort of a tossup, the coder who looks at the
18	admission and decides how to code this,
19	whether they would put dehydration first or
20	gastroenteritis first. And if they did put
21	gastroenteritis first, I mean dehydration
22	first, you would miss a significant number of

	rage 355
1	children with gastroenteritis.
2	So I think that makes sense to me
3	that if the dehydration is the first code then
4	checking what's next. And if it's
5	gastroenteritis then include it. That makes
6	sense, logically.
7	David.
8	MR. KROL: Just, I see a comment
9	here that may address my question but I don't
10	have the context for it. And that's is this
11	measure looking at admission versus community
12	management? Or admission versus community
13	management and emergency
14	department/observation unit management?
15	Because, you know, a scenario where an office
16	pediatrician or a home decides not to manage
17	any of these kids and sends them all to the
18	emergency department and lets the emergency
19	department decide whether they get admitted or
20	not is very different from the community
21	managing them well, not necessarily sending
22	them to the emergency department to be tanked

1	up or oral rehydration attempted.
2	Can you, I see this, it starts
3	with concur, but I don't know what that's
4	responding to and maybe that addresses that.
5	MS. MOLINE: David, transfers from
6	another organization or another facility are
7	excluded. So it's only from the community.
8	So it's
9	MR. KROL: No, no. No, I'm sorry.
10	I misspoke. I'm just saying, so say a patient
11	goes on their volition to the emergency
12	department or an office sends a child to an
13	emergency department to get IV'd in the ED and
14	let them decide, you know, that happens.
15	At least as a resident that
16	happened quite a bit where, you know, the
17	office decided they didn't want to put an IV
18	in so they sent them to ED, or didn't have the
19	time to start an oral rehydration in their
20	office so they'd send them to the ED, for us
21	to do that and then we'd send them home and
22	not admit them. So

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1	MS. OWENS: So the attribution in
2	terms of where the problem lies in the
3	outpatient arena, whether that be, you know,
4	that there's increased utilization in the ED,
5	and that's, you know, maybe that's patient
6	choice whether it be in the community. Maybe
7	it's actually patient non-compliance with, you
8	know, with some sort of treatment that
9	somebody prescribed. Right?
10	That's not what this measure is
11	about. This measure is at the county level
12	are there higher rates of inpatient
13	hospitalization for gastroenteritis. Now
14	where that problem lies in terms of access to
15	outpatient care or community characteristics,
16	this measure doesn't say what that is. If
17	that helps.
18	And there is no, in this measure,
19	there is no measurement of ED utilization
20	other than the inpatient stay may have started
21	in the ED.
22	MR. MCINERNEY: While we're on the

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1	subject, the problem of the observation
2	status, because as I understand it now CMS
3	defines a hospitalization as two midnights.
4	And we know in pediatrics we can have children
5	be admitted for 24 hours and go home without
6	hitting that two midnight and therefore it's
7	not called an admission. And I don't know,
8	what do we do with that situation?
9	MS. OWENS: So in this particular
10	database, if that observation stay then
11	becomes longer than two days it would be
12	counted as an inpatient hospitalization. We
13	have a different database that captures
14	observation stays that would count for those
15	that are less than two days.
16	MR. MCINERNEY: Oh, okay.
17	MS. OWENS: So they're not in this
18	data.
19	MR. AUERBACH: Just clarify about
20	the comment Was just going to clarify about
21	the comment that you made in response to the
22	data because I think it will apply to a number

1	of other metrics that we're looking at later.
2	Are you saying that this should
3	not be interpreted as a measurement of quality
4	of care? Yes? Okay.
5	So can I ask then for a
6	clarification about that? So when are we,
7	when should we consider these to be indicators
8	of quality of care versus something else? So
9	if it's not a measure of quality of care, what
10	is it?
11	MS. OWENS: Well, I mean, in the
12	sense that it could be a measure of access.
13	MR. AUERBACH: Sure.
14	MS. OWENS: It could be a measure
15	of quality. I mean, what I'm saying is we are
16	not attributing it to any one thing other than
17	we know that this particular hospitalization
18	was preventable if certain things had fallen
19	into place.
20	MR. AUERBACH: Sure. So again, I
21	guess partly this is really a question for
22	NQF. Do we give guidance for certain measures

1	that this should not be interpreted as a
2	measure of quality because in fact, I mean, it
3	also could be a measure of social determinants
4	of health or greater poverty in a community.
5	Or a population that's at greater risk for
6	social reasons, correct?
7	So I guess I'm just asking for
8	clarification about how do we tell people
9	looking at these that get approved to
10	distinguish between those that really are a
11	reflection of quality of care and those that
12	may not be?
12 13	may not be? MS. MUNTHALI: So you'd be looking
13	MS. MUNTHALI: So you'd be looking
13 14	MS. MUNTHALI: So you'd be looking at the measure as it's specified and the
13 14 15	MS. MUNTHALI: So you'd be looking at the measure as it's specified and the intent of it as Pam has stated. So we will
13 14 15 16	MS. MUNTHALI: So you'd be looking at the measure as it's specified and the intent of it as Pam has stated. So we will make sure in the report that the measure is
13 14 15 16 17	MS. MUNTHALI: So you'd be looking at the measure as it's specified and the intent of it as Pam has stated. So we will make sure in the report that the measure is indeed, well, through your evaluation that it
13 14 15 16 17 18	MS. MUNTHALI: So you'd be looking at the measure as it's specified and the intent of it as Pam has stated. So we will make sure in the report that the measure is indeed, well, through your evaluation that it is indeed evaluating what it says it's going
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	MS. MUNTHALI: So you'd be looking at the measure as it's specified and the intent of it as Pam has stated. So we will make sure in the report that the measure is indeed, well, through your evaluation that it is indeed evaluating what it says it's going to evaluation. Attribution is where it is

1	MS. OWENS: And can I ask if
2	Patrick wants to, you know, since he was from
3	the beginning in terms of development, do you
4	have any other things you'd like to add to
5	this conversation, Patrick?
6	MR. ROMANO: Yes. Just two quick
7	points basically. One is I think perhaps a
8	more general way of describing these measures
9	would be that they're measures of health
10	system performance.
11	So quality of course is part of
12	that, but when we think about health system
13	performance it's a broader concept. NQF has,
14	for example, evaluated and endorsed measures
15	of efficiency which is another component of
16	health system performance. It's sometimes put
17	under a broader definition of quality but it's
18	really kind of a bit separate conceptually.
19	So I think that's the way we
20	conceptualize these from the beginning.
21	In terms of the comment about
22	observation units, I just wanted to add that

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1	of course CMS has not yet implemented the two
2	midnight rule. Many of us who are on the
3	front lines are thankful that they have
4	deferred the two midnight rule. But
5	nonetheless it's probably coming. I think as
6	the two midnight rule is implemented obviously
7	we'll have to revisit these indicators and the
8	specifications. Look at the impact of that.
9	You know, right now I think many
10	hospitals are effectively working with a one
11	midnight rule which means that observation
12	stays have to be pretty short and are easier
13	to distinguish from hospitalizations. But as
14	we go to a two midnight situation obviously
15	there's going to be more overlap, sort of
16	conceptually between what counts as an Ob stay
17	and what counts as a hospitalization.
18	So that clearly will have an
19	impact, perhaps more for the Medicare
20	population than for this population of
21	children. But it will cause some re-
22	examination and re-analysis and perhaps re-
1	specification of the indicators.
----	--
2	So we're just working now with
3	what we have based on historical data over the
4	last decade.
5	MR. STOTO: So this is an
6	interesting question, I actually was talking
7	about it in class yesterday. And I hope what
8	I'm about to say is right, so let me know if
9	I've missed it.
10	What I have always understood
11	about these measures is that they are not a
12	measure of the quality of the care provided by
13	the hospital to which the children are
14	admitted. But they are a measure of the
15	performance of the healthcare system in the
16	communities from which they come. And I think
17	they
18	MR. ROMANO: Exactly.
19	MR. STOTO: Yes. And I think
20	that's an important distinction and an
21	important set of measures to have in this
22	group that we're considering now. Is that?

1	That's correct?
2	MR. MCINERNEY: So we'll start now
3	at the end of the table and work our way up.
4	MR. ROMANO: Perfect from our
5	perspective.
6	MR. AUERBACH: So I'm a little
7	uncomfortable with that. Because I think that
8	that, normally if you said health system
9	performance I would assume that what you're
10	saying is the healthcare provider in the
11	community, or the primary care provider, has
12	somehow failed in terms of the pediatrician in
13	this case.
14	I mean, I like a notion writ large
15	of health system performance that includes
16	poverty and, you know, the larger social
17	determinates. But I think that that's unfair,
18	you know, in this context.
19	I think we don't currently hold
20	our health system accountable for addressing
21	all the social determinants of health. We
22	might want to but we don't. And so that's why

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1	I think it implies, I think the term health
2	system and performance does imply the
3	traditional way we thought of a health care
4	provider having responsibility. Somebody else
5	has failed in that system other than the
6	hospital. And I think it's more complicated
7	than that.
8	MR. STOTO: It's a really deep
9	issue. But I think that as we're moving to a
10	world of population health where we have to
11	bear in mind that health is a shared
12	responsibility, having measures like this that
13	work well, if understood properly, are
14	important.
15	So if a community has a high
16	number and it doesn't say who's at fault, but
17	it does say something needs to be looked at.
18	And so if it's interpreted that way I think
19	it's an important and useful set of measures
20	to have.
21	MS. SELLERS: So this is all kind
22	of leading into what I was going to circle

1	back with you about, which is your reports.
2	And forgive me for not being very familiar
3	with how they look when they come out.
4	But do you have a systematic way
5	of gathering committee input on, you know,
6	what this a measure of and how this measure
7	should be used and what it should not be
8	interpreted as? And would that be a place
9	where we could elaborate on this being a
10	measure of community health or community
11	health system performance or whatever, you
12	know, whatever language there is consensus on?
13	MS. ASOMUGHA: I'd also add to
14	that that when it comes to how we measures,
15	say for instance from CMS, when we have not
16	only the pay for reporting but pay for
17	performance, the issue that would definitely
18	arise is how dare you CMS and any other payer
19	decide that we're accountable for something
20	that the other part of the system had more of
21	the responsibility over.
22	So if the hospitals are being

1	excluded from this and it's more a measure of
2	the community health system, I could foresee
3	providers saying that's not our fault. And if
4	we did it the other way I could see hospitals
5	saying it's not our fault either. They do it
6	now.
7	So just
8	(Off microphone comment.)
9	MS. ASOMUGHA: Well it doesn't
10	matter, you're right, it doesn't matter what
11	we do, they're going to complain. But that
12	being said, who's the accountable party is
13	probably the most important, to me, question
14	to be answered. And we do need to have these
15	kinds of measures going forward, whether it
16	creates a stink or not, this is the future and
17	it's now.
18	MR. VENKATESH: So I think what
19	this discussion starts to get to, which is
20	something that came up in our workgroup
21	discussion around a lot of these measures,
22	requires us to kind of go back to where the

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1	measure specified in the denominator
2	statement.
3	And this is the discussion that we
4	kind of had earlier in the level today about
5	where this committee is going to have to do
6	some work around levels of analysis.
7	And so the denominator statement
8	for this measure, and correct me but I think
9	it's going to be very similar across a lot of
10	the PQIs, is that it's a population ages 3
11	months to 17 years, so that's the age for this
12	measure, in a metropolitan area or county.
13	And so the measure is being
14	specified is metropolitan area MSA,
15	metropolitan statistical area, so think of it
16	then as that if we're endorsing it just by a
17	metropolitan statistical area or just by a
18	county, then that's all the result that you
19	get out of it is.
20	If it's used outside of that
21	that's kind of a secondary discussion we can
22	have. But if we just start with the first

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1	part of the discussion, which is metropolitan
2	statistical area or county, then I think the
3	next question we have to ask is, is that a
4	meaningful number. And so I think of this, I
5	always take this back to where I work and how
6	that means locally.
7	And so in New Haven County, our
8	PQI rate is considerably higher than the
9	county to the south of us, Fairfield County.
10	That is partially driven by social
11	determinants of health. It may be driven by
12	a variety of market structure factors and a
13	variety of things.
14	There's an adjacent county that
15	has a very low number. That's because their
16	admission would actually be counted in our
17	county, because we have the hospitals. And so
18	the And the reason it's calculated that way
19	is because when you only have hospital data to
20	calculate from you're not calculating based on
21	the patient's residence. Although this
22	specifies residence.

1	And so the reason I just bring
2	this up is that thinking about it that way if
3	a county has a lot more gastroenteritis than
4	another county, is that meaningful information
5	from which you can glean things about any of
6	those things? Efficiency, access, quality,
7	any dimension, to then do actually even
8	something about it?
9	So I think it has to be meaningful
10	in the first place, at the county level. Or
11	meaningful at the MSA level. And then it has
12	to be something that you could do something
13	with. And I think that's true for, many of
14	the PQIs do fit that construct somewhat better
15	where I could see there being opportunities
16	for quality improvement and things along those
17	lines.
18	In the case of gastroenteritis it
19	seems harder for me. Because I'm not sure
20	what I would do if we have more
21	gastroenteritis in kids unless we think that
22	Unless there's feasibility to that being

1	how care is structured around access to
2	community-based care for gastroenteritis and
3	that's not necessarily, I don't think, always
4	the case.
5	And so that's why I think there's
6	a challenge with these measures. But I think
7	we need to be specific when we talk about it
8	at what the denominator we're talking about is
9	each time, because that impacts whether or not
10	we think it's valid. Whether or not we think
11	it's useful.
12	MR. CARILLO: Yes, I want to go
13	back to John's point. I mean, there's a lot
14	of studies, classic studies, that show that
15	the impact on health, the attributable impact
16	on health of social determinants surpasses
17	that of healthcare. And this speaks also to
18	the denominator issue in terms of what is the
19	social conditions in a particular area that
20	you're capturing.
21	
	So I mean I wonder have there been
22	So I mean I wonder have there been any studies trying to look at to separate the

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1	availability of healthcare in the setting of
2	certain PQIs? Because certainly, I mean, it's
3	a big issue.
4	Now you can say the two travel
5	together. I mean travel to healthcare and
6	adverse social deterministic conditions do
7	travel together. But I think that it's an
8	important issue to consider with this measure,
9	these measures.
10	MS. FRAZIER: I just want to
11	reemphasize the system, this concept of health
12	system, which I think is the quandary we find
13	ourselves in when we're trying to really, as
14	someone who works in the community, trying to
15	figure out how to impact change around
16	population health when we start thinking about
17	system responsibility it turns into nobody's
18	responsibility.
19	So I know that the goal is to
20	create population health measures and I agree
21	with that. I'm just trying to reconcile the
22	need to have something to have actionable at

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1	a community level because we all rally around
2	this population health conversation. And this
3	is part of the other work that I'm doing on
4	this population health committee, that
5	committee is around trying to figure out how
6	to rally the troops to create some actionable.
7	So these measures, even though
8	they need to have a base of population health
9	as a denominator from a scientific
10	perspective, but I think in looking at it as
11	only a measure of something called a system I
12	think is also too broad in my mind too. It's
13	probably way to broad to figure out how do you
14	tackle this thing called not a system, it's a
15	system of, you know, impact. I don't know how
16	you'd tackle that?
17	MR. MCINERNEY: Anybody else?
18	MR. BIALEK: Yes, I need a little
19	help understanding the user of this particular
20	measure, because I think that's really key.
21	If it's And if we approve the measure
22	ultimately, is it limited to the county and

1	city? Or is it a measure that can be taken
2	and let's say CMS use it to rate individual
3	physicians?
4	MS. OWENS: So a couple things.
5	The PQIs have been used in the national
6	healthcare quality report and the national
7	healthcare disparities report to say how we're
8	doing as a nation with respect to these.
9	In other words, where does the
10	nation need to prioritize whether it be access
11	to care, whether it be community-level
12	initiatives, that kind of thing around various
13	conditions. So that's the broad stroke.
14	These indicators have also been
15	used in public reporting mechanisms such as
16	Monarch, where states are actually reporting
17	at the county level their PQI rates or PDI
18	rates to say what counties need to do more in
19	this particular area and do we need to drill
20	down and look at gastroenteritis, in this
21	county is particularly high. What do we need
22	to do? Do we need to look at rotovirus

1	vaccines for instance? Do we need to do
2	something else in the community?
3	If it's about asthma, do we need
4	to look at the treatment? Do we need to look
5	at the environment, some of the social
6	determinants.
7	So those are some instances where
8	it's being used at the county level. I will
9	tell within Monarch the developers, or the
10	people that are creating Monarch websites, are
11	actually wanting to go down to the zip code
12	level. There's some concern with that because
13	of the granularity and the small cell sizes.
14	So we aren't actually advocating that.
15	In terms of CMS. CMS has been,
16	I'll be honest with you, CMS is interested in
17	the PQIs. They are looking to AHRQ for
18	guidance on how to best use the PQIs for what
19	they are intended for.
20	So using them in the ACO programs
21	that are supposed to be comprehensive. Maybe
22	that makes sense. Again, we're looking at it

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1	and we're looking at the reliability and
2	validity as they then can look at their
3	beneficiary population that are within the
4	ACOs.
5	May not be so appropriate for
6	physician groups. Right? Because of the
7	accountability issue that you're bringing up.
8	Again, it's about appropriate use. And AHRQ
9	being at the table to guide them.
10	As part of that conversation this
11	coming year AHRQ is undertaking an initiative
12	with all of its indicators to say what is the
13	appropriate use for this measure. It comes up
14	at every NQF meeting. And I feel that we need
15	some parameters around that discussion.
16	So we will be bringing in experts
17	to really put those parameters there. So it
18	is not everybody, this is not a free-for-all
19	grab whatever you want and use it however you
20	want. That's not the intent of these
21	measures.
22	MR. STOTO: I think, given all of

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1	that, to me the issue is what does the
2	evidence that connects this outcome to the
3	quality of care received in the community?
4	So for something like diabetes I
5	think there's pretty strong evidence that if
6	you get good primary care you're less likely
7	to be admitted to the hospital for,
8	particularly emergent care, for instance.
9	I don't know. I haven't looked at
10	the question about this gastroenteritis,
11	whether that's through or not. I'm just
12	glancing at the materials put together it's
13	suggested that there's socioeconomic
14	differences, which is not at all the kind of
15	thing you'd be looking for. Is that fair?
16	MS. OWENS: Patrick, do you want
17	to answer that and then I'll give my two cents
18	based on an NIH study?
19	MR. ROMANO: Yes. I would say
20	that there's two strands of evidence. First
21	of all, there's absolutely no question that
22	all of the PQIs, including these pediatric

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1	versions, are sensitive to socioeconomic
2	determinants. So clearly there's a
3	relationship between neighborhood household
4	income and other markers of STS and PQI rates.
5	So we know this.
6	But the two strands of evidence
7	relative to making it a performance measure
8	are, one, that I think there's very strong
9	evidence supporting oral rehydration as the
10	primary treatment for mild to moderate
11	dehydration presenting in really any clinical
12	setting, whether it's the physician's office
13	or an urgent care center or even a hospital
14	emergency department.
15	So with successful implementation
16	of oral rehydration hospitals around the world
17	have been able to demonstrate less use of
18	intravenous fluids and fewer hospital
19	admissions. So that's the one clinical
20	argument.
21	The second is sort of a construct
22	validity argument, which is the correlation

1	between PQI rates and primary care resources.
2	So in areas where there's a better supply of
3	family physicians and other primary care
4	physicians, primary care pediatricians, these
5	PQI rates tend to be lower.
6	And of course that may be somewhat
7	confounded with socioeconomic determinants but
8	nonetheless there are a couple of studies that
9	have adjusted for socioeconomic factors and
10	still shown that primary care access is
11	associated with lower PQI hospitalization
12	rates including dehydration and
12 13	rates including dehydration and gastroenteritis.
13	gastroenteritis.
13 14	gastroenteritis. So those are the two major themes
13 14 15	gastroenteritis. So those are the two major themes in the literature that support this type of
13 14 15 16	gastroenteritis. So those are the two major themes in the literature that support this type of indicator.
13 14 15 16 17	gastroenteritis. So those are the two major themes in the literature that support this type of indicator. MR. MCINERNEY: So I've been in
13 14 15 16 17 18	<pre>gastroenteritis.     So those are the two major themes in the literature that support this type of indicator.     MR. MCINERNEY: So I've been in practice for over 40 years and that was before</pre>
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	<pre>gastroenteritis.     So those are the two major themes in the literature that support this type of indicator.     MR. MCINERNEY: So I've been in practice for over 40 years and that was before oral rehydration solutions were in vogue or</pre>
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	<pre>gastroenteritis.     So those are the two major themes     in the literature that support this type of     indicator.         MR. MCINERNEY: So I've been in     practice for over 40 years and that was before     oral rehydration solutions were in vogue or     recommended in the gastroenteritis guidelines.</pre>

1	intravenous rehydration with gastroenteritis.
2	But as we've been able to use oral
3	rehydration solutions the number of patients
4	that we've admitted has been vanishingly small
5	in the past ten years or so. So to me it is
6	a PQI or an ambulatory sensitive care
7	condition that the medical system or the
8	physicians and the primary care doctors in the
9	community have some control over. And so I
10	think in that respect it is worth measuring.
11	Certainly there are plenty of other
12	confounders.
12 13	confounders. The other point I think I would
13	The other point I think I would
13 14	The other point I think I would make is that many people would say that an
13 14 15	The other point I think I would make is that many people would say that an ambulatory care organization ought to be
13 14 15 16	The other point I think I would make is that many people would say that an ambulatory care organization ought to be looking at the really big picture to improve
13 14 15 16 17	The other point I think I would make is that many people would say that an ambulatory care organization ought to be looking at the really big picture to improve the health of the population for which they
13 14 15 16 17 18	The other point I think I would make is that many people would say that an ambulatory care organization ought to be looking at the really big picture to improve the health of the population for which they are responsible. And community not-for-profit
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	The other point I think I would make is that many people would say that an ambulatory care organization ought to be looking at the really big picture to improve the health of the population for which they are responsible. And community not-for-profit hospitals are supposed to be trying to figure

1	Now that being said, right now
2	there are really no pediatric ACL measures,
3	the ACL just applies for adults only. But if
4	we ever do get to some pediatric ACL measures
5	and recommendations from CMS this conceivably
6	would be a good one.
7	MR. STOTO: Ron and I are working
8	in Montgomery County on health improvement
9	activities and in fact this is, not this
10	particular one, but this family of measures is
11	something we're considering to use for exactly
12	that purpose.
13	MR. AUERBACH: I think that part
14	of what would make me feel comfortable, maybe
15	just making a recommendation, would be
16	understanding that in the release of the
17	recommendations or the approval process as we
18	go through this, if there is a mechanism for
19	doing what Katie was suggesting which is
20	distinguishing in the explanation of the
21	metrics between those that we think are
22	
	overwhelmingly measures of quality of care and

1	those where we think it's much more
2	complicated than that and also does involve
3	the strong consideration of the social
4	determinants of health.
5	The flip side of it is as I talk
6	to community health center docs is they don't
7	want to get blamed for poor quality when in
8	fact the patients they're treating are just at
9	higher risk and have a whole range of
10	different issues that just make it harder for
11	them to do simple things for families with
12	less socioeconomic problems, you know, are
13	able to do.
14	So just if there's That is a
15	heavy burden for you to distinguish between
16	those but I do think that, you know, if it's
17	possible to do that in a way so that the usage
18	can be clearer about when there are multiple
19	factors and it shouldn't be misinterpreted.
20	MS. BURSTIN: It's a very good
21	point. And just for those of you who are
22	relatively new to our process we do provide

1	all of that context from these discussions in
2	the report.
3	I also think it's important to
4	anchor on the fact of what the level of
5	analysis of this measure is. Nowhere does it
6	say And NQF is really pretty stringent
7	about measures at the intended level analysis
8	at which they have been tested.
9	So nowhere in this does it say
10	it's appropriate for a clinic or an individual
11	clinician's office. Or a hospital for that
12	matter. It is only higher levels of analysis,
13	which I think is why there was a comfort that
14	this did reflect a broader sense of systemic
15	care that frankly could potentially be very
16	useful to those within the community for
17	improvement. And potentially to be able to
18	benchmark yourself across communities.
19	But absolutely that, you know,
20	there's nothing in that level of analysis we
21	looked at, nothing there says clinic,
22	physician, clinician, hospital. It's really

1	only at those higher levels of analysis at
2	which this measure is intended.
3	MR. BIALEK: Helen, that was very
4	helpful. Thank you. And that raises another
5	question around this, as well as a number of
6	the other measures, which is the whole
7	stratification piece.
8	You know, if one is looking at the
9	county level metropolitan area, one looking at
10	the aggregate one won't make as much of an
11	impact necessarily as if one has some
12	stratification in there. And is that
13	something that AHRQ has considered with these
14	measures?
15	MS. OWENS: So in HQR and HDR you
16	can look at the breakout of the rates by race.
17	You can look at it by payer. And, when you
18	get to the adult measures, various age groups,
19	that kind of thing. You can look at it by
20	income. Or rural/urban, that would be
21	another. Although once you get to the county
22	level pretty, depending upon how that county

1	sits, it's kind of a moot point. Because it's
2	either all rural or all urban.
3	All that to be said is yes but
4	then that becomes at the reporting level.
5	That goes how do you then report his measure
6	out to make things comparable, right. So the
7	measure itself is not a stratified measure.
8	You could stratify it. It is only age and sex
9	adjusted. Okay?
10	MR. MCINERNEY: I think in my mind
11	a little bit of what Helen is talking about is
12	the difference between measurement for
13	improvement versus measurement for judgement.
14	And, you know, I think it would be helpful
15	over time to look at a measure like this and
16	find out, you know, are the number of
17	admissions for children with diarrhea or
18	dehydration increasing or decreasing over time
19	for a geographic area. And, you know,
20	hopefully they're decreasing.
21	Now then the question is well why.
22	And, you know, is it better medical care or is

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1	it better social determinants of health. Well
2	that's something one might want to then try
3	and examine. But I think you'd like to know
4	at least is it getting better or worse.
5	You know, it's sort of you're
6	looking at your speedometer on your car and
7	going faster or slower then you could say well
8	all right, why. You know, what kind of road
9	am I on, is that why I'm going faster or
10	slower.
11	So I think in that respect it's
12	probably a worthwhile measure. And then you
13	can drill down after that.
14	This is a rich, rich discussion
15	because I think that this is something that's
16	important for not only the two pediatric
17	measures that we're going to consider but the
18	rest of the PQI measures that we're going to
19	be reviewing tomorrow. So I think it's
20	important to set the stage. And we should
21	have everybody have some input before we get
22	into the nitty-gritty of the measures.

1	So I see a couple more people
2	interested in saying a few more words.
3	Please.
4	MS. ASOMUGHA: I just want to make
5	sure that I'm understanding sort of the
6	universe of this measure. So what we're
7	looking at, it's not hospital. It's not a
8	measure of quality. But it's really about how
9	well we're treating gastroenteritis in the
10	community.
11	So whether somebody either in
12	their house is able to provide oral
13	rehydration because they've been educated
14	either by a clinician or a family member. Or
15	maybe it's the fact that they went to a
16	clinician or something and so they never got
17	to the hospital. But that's what we're
18	looking at is
19	MALE PARTICIPANT: Or avoided the
20	problem in the first place.
21	MS. ASOMUGHA: Altogether. Yes.
22	So they washed their hands and it was never

1	Right. Right. Am I right in thinking
2	Okay. Just want to make sure.
3	MS. LUCK: I can imagine a
4	scenario in which the community's ability to
5	prevent hospitalization remains exactly the
6	same and rates go up or down because of other
7	social determinants of health, for example
8	changes in water qualities.
9	And that's going back to what John
10	said which is when you define it as a measure
11	of health system performance, well then now
12	we're holding the health sector responsible
13	for water quality, which may be where we need
14	to go but we need to keep that in mind.
15	MR. VENKATESH: I guess sort of
16	related to than and what Tom just said is that
17	I can see a lot of use for this measure from
18	a perspective of within area improvement. So
19	seeing how you're doing over time and the area
20	can decide whether it's being driven by water
21	quality, whether it's driven by the structure
22	of ambulatory care, things like that.

1	I guess my question is for these
2	measures, is what's the threshold for how
3	valid they need to be to be compared between
4	or across the areas for endorsement? Because
5	I could see this being something that makes
6	sense, could be endorsed, can be used and a
7	county could re-use and repeated measurement.
8	Where I kind of struggle with it a
9	little bit more, in comparison to even some of
10	the other ones, is what's the meaning of this
11	measure's score in comparison to other
12	counties? And how much do I get hung up on
13	that when we think about the validity of the
14	measure?
15	MS. ASOMUGHA: And I'll just add
16	something to what Arjun said, that's exactly
17	it. So I don't think personally after reading
18	and hearing the discussion that you would want
19	to make it comparable across communities only
20	because the drivers for whatever the rates or
21	the score is could be very different across
22	communities.

1	And you'd want to be able to say,
2	as an individual community or metropolitan
3	area or whatnot, that okay these were the
4	issues that were potentially driving this and
5	that might not look the same as, you know,
6	Orange County and Los Angeles County in
7	southern California.
8	MR. MCINERNEY: We get to say
9	that. But I'm just the just Chair.
10	MS. OWENS: So I guess my question
11	would be
12	MR. SALIVE: These measures are
13	fine. And I think is CDC is done we would be
14	all in favor of that for, you know, comparing.
15	And if you publish a map, everyone's
16	publishing maps these days, you know, it's
17	
	not, I mean, no one wants to be that one with
18	not, I mean, no one wants to be that one with the dark red. But there are, you know, it
18 19	
	the dark red. But there are, you know, it
19	the dark red. But there are, you know, it raises a issue and so I think we have to look

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1	I mean, these are existing
2	measures. They're in use, right? So I mean
3	that is reported in here, who's using it. I
4	went in on the one I had and who's using it,
5	you know, it's reported. The maps are out
6	there on the diabetes measures. They are
7	published every year. So the genie is out of
8	the bottle.
9	MR. AUERBACH: I hear folks saying
10	use the data but don't misinterpret it. But
11	I would just say pay real good attention to
12	what's in writing. Because the writing
13	sometimes does say this is about the
14	healthcare system. I mean, I'm just looking
15	at this measure as written and it says it is
16	a measure of experiencing better management of
17	acute gastroenteritis. That's what it's
18	measuring.
19	And I think that there was similar
20	language in the justification that it was not
21	attributable to hospitals, attributable to
22	care and the community.

1	So we just have to We shouldn't
2	say hey this really isn't a measure of quality
3	but then we have some language in there that
4	I think it would lead folks that are trying to
5	do that to interpret it in a certain way. We
6	just have to go through and edit it carefully
7	I think so it says the right things.
8	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Well it is
9	almost 4:45. And if you look at our agenda we
10	have NQF member and public comment at 4:45.
11	And I've been informed Adeela that we really
12	should open it up for that. Obviously that
13	would be for the dental measures only, since
14	we haven't done any other measures.
15	And I think we should do that and
16	then probably we'll just have to really,
17	overnight get ourselves ready and gird our
18	loins to do all of the PQI measures tomorrow.
19	I suspect some folks are going to have flights
20	that they need to catch and we can't stay
21	until 5 o'clock tomorrow since we're
22	supposedly going to adjourn at 3:00.

1	So I think let's go ahead and
2	we'll open it up for the public comment then
3	we'll get to the measures tomorrow.
4	OPERATOR: If you want to make a
5	public comment please press star then the
6	number one.
7	There are no public comments at
8	this time.
9	MR. MCINERNEY: Do we want to,
10	since we have another 15 minutes or so before
11	we're ready to adjourn, do we want to try and
12	tackle that first measure, the gastroenteritis
13	measure on Page 37?
14	All right. Let's go ahead and do
15	that. And I don't know, who wants to discuss
16	that? Michael or Jacqueline?
17	MS. KHAN: Oh there's a mistake
18	actually.
19	MR. MCINERNEY: Oh.
20	MS. KHAN: It's 727, it's Amy and
21	Tom.
22	MR. MCINERNEY: Oh, Amy. Please.

1	MS. MINNICH: After all this
2	discussion I don't know about this, we'll give
3	it a try.
4	So just to recap, this measure is
5	for gastroenteritis admission rate. The
6	numerator statement is, "Discharges from age
7	3 months to 17 years with a principle
8	diagnosis of gastroenteritis or a secondary
9	diagnosis of gastroenteritis with a principle
10	diagnosis code dehydration."
11	Denominator statement is,
12	"Population 3 months through 17 years in a
13	metropolitan area or county."
14	The level of analysis, as we've
15	already said, is by county or city. And
16	population national, regional population or
17	state.
18	As far as the evidence, this is
19	purely an outcome measure so there is no
20	further discussion on that. The author
21	actually did demonstrate significant, there
22	were six randomized trials that were reported.

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1	And so there was strong evidence on this
2	measure. Do you have any questions?
3	MR. MCINERNEY: Mike.
4	MR. STOTO: Yes. I understand
5	that the general rule that outcome measures
6	don't, you know, don't need to cite the
7	evidence. But for this kind this strikes as
8	one where it really would be helpful to know.
9	And that's what the question I was asking
10	about and Patrick kind of answered. And there
11	is a bit in here that I've found about that.
12	And really the question is to what
13	degree does this reflect variation that can be
14	attributed to the health system broadly
15	defined or is it just socioeconomic
16	differences?
17	And I guess what I hear is that
18	there's some evidence of that but that it's
19	more than just socioeconomic. Is that
20	correct? Yes.
21	MR. MCINERNEY: Any other comments
22	on the evidence criteria?

1	MR. FRANCE: I would probably just
2	point out that the precipitous drop in this
3	rate over the last seven or eight years
4	probably suggests that it's not socioeconomic,
5	but it's care delivery systems and new
6	vaccines that's driving that.
7	MR. MCINERNEY: I think that's a
8	reasonable assumption since we know that
9	childhood poverty has remained level over the
10	past 20 years. So we probably can attribute
11	it to that.
12	Okay. So let's vote on the first
13	measure. And could we go ahead and do that?
14	Thanks.
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For evidence,
16	1 is yes and 2 is no. Voting is open.
17	Okay. We're still waiting for one
18	vote. All votes are in and voting is now
19	closed. For evidence we have 21 votes for yes
20	and 1 vote for no.
21	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Performance
22	gap.

1	MS. MINNICH: So looking at the
2	opportunities for improvement I'm sorry.
3	Opportunities for improvement,
4	there are actually two specific things that
5	were noted. One was of disparities and lower
6	economic zip codes. And secondly a
7	performance gap looking at variation across
8	providers. So those were the two areas that
9	our group concluded.
10	MR. MCINERNEY: Any other
11	discussion on performance gap? Okay, let's
12	vote please.
13	MR. STOTO: Some of that evidence
14	is really pretty low. Or pretty old I should
15	say. '92, '88. Yes.
16	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay.
17	MR. ROMANO: Well, could I address
18	that?
19	MR. MCINERNEY: Sure.
20	MR. ROMANO: I think that more
21	recent analysis have actually shown that these
22	disparities unfortunately have increased.

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1	This has been tracked in the national
2	healthcare disparities report and elsewhere.
3	So, for example, the ratio between
4	the lowest income and the highest income
5	communities has actually risen from 1.48 to
6	1.64 even while the overall rate has dropped
7	by 2/3rds since 2005.
8	And similarly the ratio between
9	rural and urban communities has risen from
10	about 2 to about 2.5, 2.46. So rural
11	communities, the kids are nearly 2-1/2 times
12	more likely to be hospitalized. So if
13	anything the disparities have actually
14	increased during this time while the overall
15	rates have decreased.
16	That's from 2011 data compared
17	with 2005.
18	MR. STOTO: It would be good if
19	the record actually reflected that. That's
20	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you for that
21	information.
22	MR. CARILLO: But the rates of
1	decrease, are they different from one to the
----	--
2	other? Very often you see that there's a
3	decrease and the decrease is quite large for
4	the better off community than the other. So
5	you still have a
6	MR. ROMANO: Right
7	MR. CARILLO: disparity gap.
8	MR. ROMANO: the disparities
9	have widened in relative terms. So the rates
10	have dropped faster for higher income
11	communities and for urban communities and
12	western communities and communities with a
13	high supply of primary care physicians
14	compared with the alternatives.
15	Does that makes sense?
16	MR. CARILLO: A complicated topic.
17	MS. OWENS: To Michael's point,
18	I'm under the impression I can update the
19	forms, correct? To put more recent data in
20	there.
21	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Well let's
22	vote on the performance gap please.

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1	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
2	performance gap, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3
3	is low and 4 is insufficient. And voting is
4	now open.
5	All votes are in and voting is now
6	closed. For performance gap, 13 voted high,
7	8 voted moderate, 1 voted low and 0 voted
8	insufficient.
9	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Priority.
10	MS. MINNICH: So under the
11	priority section the workgroup did feel that
12	there was significant priority and that one
13	out of every 50 children experienced an acute
14	stay related to GI care. And there was still
15	high utilization for hospital versus
16	outpatient management.
17	MR. MCINERNEY: Further
18	discussion? Okay. Let's vote please.
19	Thanks.
20	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For high
21	priority, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low
22	and 4 is insufficient. And voting is now

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1	open.
2	I think we're just waiting for one
3	vote.
4	All votes are in and voting is now
5	closed. For priority, 15 voted high, 7 voted
6	moderate, 0 voted low and 0 voted
7	insufficient.
8	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. We'll now
9	move to scientific acceptability.
10	MS. MINNICH: So looking at the
11	statements again. The numerator statement, 3
12	months to 17 years with ICD-9 code of
13	gastroenteritis or as secondary diagnosis of
14	gastroenteritis with a principle diagnosis of
15	dehydration excluding pregnancy and OB related
16	cases, transfer from other institutions, age
17	less than or equal to 90 days and any
18	diagnosis code of gastroenteritis
19	abnormalities or bacterial gastroenteritis.
20	Denominator statement simply
21	looking at the population age, 3 months to 17
22	years in a metropolitan area. Exclusions were

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1	not applicable. The data source was purely
2	administrative claims so there were no
3	concerns related to multi-source data.
4	MR. MCINERNEY: Any comments on
5	the reliability measure? Okay, let's vote
6	Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Ron.
7	MR. BIALEK: There was a comment
8	submitted about, let's see from J.H.M.
9	Armstrong Institute. And I'm just wondering
10	if you can respond to that?
11	This was about the due to
12	stratification of data calculation processes,
13	datasets are poor quality, e.g., missing
14	patient-level data elements such as gender,
15	age, discharge, et cetera. Am I reading from
16	the wrong?
17	MS. OWENS: Okay. So I think it's
18	a misunderstanding of the age group data,
19	because it's actually not missing these data
20	elements. Particularly gender and age or
21	discharge status, principal and secondary
22	condition.

-	rage tor
1	I'll go back and look at it but I
2	think it's a misunderstanding.
3	MS. ASOMUGHA: The comment wasn't
4	saying that the data is excluded. It's just
5	noting that they are excluded. And that if
6	the state agencies or vendors don't enforce
7	data quality standards there could be
8	differences in the communities that may be
9	reflective of poor hospital coding and
10	associated records being excluded from
11	analysis.
12	So they're wondering about the
13	quality of data from the hospitals.
14	MS. OWENS: So to that point I
15	think more of the concern would not be coming
16	of the hospital per se but may be coming out
17	of one of the programs of the programs of the
18	community level if they have incomplete data.
19	And as with all measures you have incomplete
20	data, you will have an incomplete measure.
21	Then you work with whoever's giving you the
22	data to get complete data so that you can

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1
      actually populate it.
                  So I think it's a function of
 2
      who's putting the data in rather than the data
 3
 4
      it's tested on.
 5
                  MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Let's vote
      on the reliability please.
 6
 7
                  MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
      reliability 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low
 8
 9
      and 4 is insufficient. And voting is now
10
      open.
11
                  All of the votes are in and voting
12
      is now closed.
13
                  For reliability 17 voted high, 5
      voted moderate, 0 voted low and 0 voted
14
15
      insufficient.
16
                  MR. MCINERNEY: Good.
                                         Okay.
17
      Validity please.
18
                  MS. MINNICH:
                                There were two
19
      comments specifically referencing around
20
      validity testing. One was the impact of the
21
      vaccine, the rotovirus vaccine, versus the
      decreased PCP access and oral administration
22
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1	of hydration.
2	Second was something that we
3	talked about earlier, was just looking at the
4	insurance clarity around 24 hour admissions as
5	compared to observation status.
6	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
7	discussions on validity? Yes?
8	MR. FRANCE: Arjun pointed out that
9	in certain counties you might have this bias
10	if your hospitals in this county and the
11	neighboring counties don't have the same
12	hospitals. Is that a very common occurrence
13	across all counties as you look at the data?
14	MS. OWENS: Well it doesn't matter
15	which county the hospital is in because you're
16	looking at hospitalizations as it's got the
17	patient residence in it.
18	MR. FRANCE: Patient residence.
19	Okay. Thank you.
20	MS. OWENS: So it's a little
21	different.
22	MR. FRANCE: All right. Thanks.

1	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. Shall we
2	vote please.
3	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For validity,
4	1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low and 4 is
5	insufficient. And voting is now open.
6	All of the votes are in and voting
7	is now closed.
8	For validity, 13 voted high, 8
9	voted moderate, 1 voted low and 0 voted
10	insufficient.
11	MS. MINNICH: The feasibility
12	there were not specific concerns noted as
13	there was, it's just purely a claims
14	administration data source.
15	MR. MCINERNEY: Any discussion on
16	feasibility? All right. Moving right along,
17	we'll vote on that.
18	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
19	feasibility 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low
20	and 4 is insufficient. And voting is now
21	open.
22	Okay. All of the votes are in and

1	voting is now closed.
2	For feasibility, 20 voted high and
3	2 voted moderate, 0 voted low and 0 voted
4	insufficient.
5	MS. MINNICH: And finally on
6	usability, three states are currently
7	reporting this data including Connecticut, New
8	York and California. The measure is already
9	in use and there has been significant
10	improvement over time. From 2007 the rate was
11	121.5 per 100,000 as compared to 2011 where it
12	was reduced to 67.5 per 100,000.
13	MR. MCINERNEY: Comments on
14	usability. All right. Let's vote please.
15	MS. ROBINSON-ECTOR: For
16	usability, 1 is high, 2 is moderate, 3 is low
17	and 4 is insufficient information. Voting is
18	now open. We're still waiting on one vote.
19	All of the votes are in and voting
20	is now closed.
21	For usability, 17 voted high, 5
22	voted moderate, 0 voted low and 0 voted

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1	insufficient information.
2	MR. MCINERNEY: Okay. We now have
3	overall suitability or endorsement. Any
4	discussion about that? Yes?
5	MS. MOLINE: My only comment is on
6	reading this is I think it's a misnomer to
7	just call it gastroenteritis because bacterial
8	gastroenteritis is excluded from this measure.
9	So it's really looking purely at viral
10	gastroenteritis so that's what it should be
11	called. Because if you're looking at the
12	measure and you're thinking by county then
13	there can be outbreaks by county that are
14	related to bacterial whatever and you're going
15	to look at it and say oh this is the whole
16	spectrum if you don't dig down deeper. So I
17	think I would recommend that it be modified.
18	MR. VENKATESH: My only concern is
19	I don't know if the fidelity of codes are good
20	enough to make the distinction. Because the
21	vast majority of gastroenteritis may not have
22	an etiology applied to it. So there are codes

1	that exist for just gastroenteritis. And so
2	there are probably many bacterial
3	gastroenteritis that have a course under the
4	viral ones and that may not actually be
5	excluded from the measure and still be in it.
6	I think it's fine. I think it still is a good
7	measure, it does everything good and fine.
8	But I'm not sure that we can call everybody in
9	the measure a bacterial.
10	MS. MOLINE: I was just doing it
11	based on what the specific exclusion are. So
12	when you're looking at what the criteria were
13	as defined it was excluding every type of
14	bacteria.
15	MS. OWENS: Well we hear what
16	you're saying. So something, maybe it's
17	gastroenteritis excluding bacterial admission
18	rate. You know, working with what you're
19	saying I agree with you, Arjun, in terms of
20	the coding because gastroenteritis is not
21	elsewhere classified or specified is a general
22	code and you don't know the etiology.

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1	MR. MCINERNEY: Any further
2	discussion? Okay. Let's vote please.
3	MS. KHAN: I can read it. So
4	we're voting on overall suitability for
5	endorsement. Does the measure meet NQF
6	criteria for endorsement? 1 is yes and 2 is
7	no. Want to press the button Katelynn? I
8	think we're one short.
9	So we have 22 votes for yes and 0
10	for no. So the Measure 727 gastroenteritis
11	admission rate is recommended.
12	MR. MCINERNEY: Thank you
13	everybody for working hard late in the day and
14	getting through at least this one measure. I
15	think we'll not press our luck and go on any
16	further. And we'll all have a nice, hopefully
17	have a good night's rest and be ready to go
18	and finish up the I think we have still
19	eight measures to go so we're pretty much
20	halfway through our, if I counted correctly.
21	MS. KHAN: Yes, we're about
22	halfway through.

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1	MR. MCINERNEY: Halfway through.
2	So good job everybody today. Any comments or
3	housekeeping measures for tonight?
4	MS. KHAN: Yes, this is just a
5	quick summary of what we did today. I haven't
6	added in the two, the recommended for the PDI
7	but it's been recommended. 2508 has been
8	recommended. 2509 has been recommended. 2528
9	and 2511 have been recommended. And the
10	Committee has decided to delay a vote on 2517
11	and 2518 until after public and member
12	comment.
13	We did reserve dinner for
14	everybody. The restaurant information is up
15	there. The reservation is for 6:30.
16	Just quickly, housekeeping, all of
17	you will have separate checks and NQF does
18	reimburse for dinner up to \$36. So the staff
19	will be there as well so we hope to see you
20	there. And I'll keep this up so you can copy
21	the address down.
22	And, sorry. Just one last

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1	reminder, breakfast is at 8:30 tomorrow and
2	we'll be starting evaluation at 9:00. So
3	we'll see you at 9:00.
4	(Whereupon, the meeting in the
5	above-entitled matter was concluded at 5:06
6	p.m.)
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	Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc.

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#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Health and Well Being Steering Committee Meeting

Before: NQF

Date: 04-29-14

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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